



Committee Manager: Jane Fulton (Ext. 37611)

8 March 2013

ELECTORAL REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Electoral Review Sub-Committee will be held in Committee Room 1 at the Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton on **Monday, 25 March 2013 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Gammon (Vice-Chairman), Bower, Mrs Brown, Dendle, Nash and Oppler. (Two Conservative Vacancies)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declaration of personal and/or prejudicial/pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda.

You should declare your interest by stating:

- a) the item you have the interest in
- b) whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest
- c) whether it is also a prejudicial/pecuniary interest

You then need to re-declare your prejudicial/pecuniary interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

3. *MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 (as attached).

4. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. *FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published their report setting out their final recommendations on new electoral arrangements for Arun District Council on 26 February 2013. This also includes consequential parish ward changes and a copy of the summary and recommendations is attached. All Members of the Council have been sent the full report and maps which can be accessed by clicking on the LGBCE's website at www.lgbce.org.uk and consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

The Sub-Committee is asked to note the recommendations which will now be laid by order of Parliament, with the new arrangements due to come into force at the District and Parish Election in May 2015.

6. FEEDBACK ON THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS AND POLLING STATION TRIALS

The Head of Democratic Services will provide an update to Members at the meeting.

7. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION - UPDATE

The Head of Democratic Services will provide an update to Members at the meeting on the latest arrangements for the annual canvass in 2013; and the introduction of individual elector registration.

(Note: *Indicates report is attached for all Members of the Council and the press (excluding exempt items). Copies of reports can be obtained on request from the Committee Manager or can be viewed on the Council's web site by visiting www.arun.gov.uk).

(Note: Members are also reminded that if they have any detailed questions, would they please inform the Chairman and/or relevant Lead Officer in advance of the meeting in order that the appropriate Officer/ Cabinet Member can attend the meeting.)

Subject to approval at the next meeting

ELECTORAL REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

27 September 2012 at 4.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Gammon (Vice-Chairman in the chair), Bower, Chapman (Substituting for Councillor Mrs Brown), Evans (Substituting for Councillor R Brown), Nash and Oppler.

[Note: Councillor Oppler was absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to in Minute 6 (part)].

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Hazlehurst, Mrs Brown, R Brown and Dendle.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the Government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions on the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a member declares a "Prejudicial Interest", this will, in the interests of clarity for the public, be recorded in the minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 May 2012 were approved by the Sub-Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. START TIMES

The Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

That the start time for its meetings during 2012/2013 be 6.00pm.

5. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Head of Democratic Services which asked Members to compile a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) draft recommendations on the Electoral Review of Arun District Council for consideration at the Full Council Meeting on 24 October 2012.

In presenting her report, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the LGBCE had published its draft recommendations on 4 September 2012. All Members had immediately been notified by email of the recommendations and hard copies of the LGBCE's report had been circulated following their receipt from the Review Team. Members had also been asked that if they wished to submit their views to the Sub-Committee to assist in compiling a response to the recommendations, these needed to be provided by 24 September 2012. Only 3 responses had been received from Councillors Nash, English and Jones, details of which were circulated at the meeting.

The Head of Democratic Services stated that she had expressed her disappointment to the LGBCE over its decision to twice extend the consultation period timetable. A programme of meetings had been established for the Sub-Committee and Full Council based on the Commission's initial timetable, which also accommodated the timetable for the Police & Crime Commissioner elections taking place on 15 November 2012. The Chief Executive had pushed very hard for an extension to mid-January 2013, by writing to Alan Cogbill, the Chief Executive of the LGBCE, and also to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, MP. Unfortunately, the responses received had confirmed that no extension past 3 December 2012 would be granted. Therefore the Sub-Committee would need to agree a response for consideration at the Council Meeting on 24 October 2012. The Head of Democratic Services explained that due to the election timetable in place there was no capacity within her team to undertake any further work on this review beyond this meeting.

Members were advised that the draft recommendations were based on a Council size of 53 and proposed changes to the Angmering and Findon, Pagham and Rose Green, and East Preston with Kingston wards to reduce the number of Councillors; whilst new warding patterns were proposed for

Subject to approval at the next meeting

Arundel and Walberton; Littlehampton and Rustington. The draft recommendations also provided for a number of consequential changes to parish electoral arrangements.

The Head of Democratic Services alerted Members to an issue of concern for officers which was the impact the proposals would have on coterminosity. The draft recommendations proposed a number of changes that would result in district and parish electoral arrangements no longer being coterminous. It was felt that this could cause confusion for electors when they are voting for different local authority areas.

Before considering the detail of the draft recommendations, Members were reminded that it was clear from the LGBCE's report that any comments made needed to be evidence based as the report had indicated that insufficient evidence had been provided in some areas of the Council's previous submission. Looking at each area, the Sub-Committee's comments were:

Greater Bognor Regis – the Members from the west of the District were generally content with the proposals for greater Bognor Regis as they were broadly in line with the joint submission from the Opposition Groups. However, concern was expressed over the proposals for consequential parish changes for Bognor Regis Town Council to increase from 4 to 6 parish wards with the same number of Councillors. It was considered that there was a lack of evidence to explain the reasoning for creating 2 new parish wards which it was felt would cause confusion with the electorate and would lead to lower election turnouts. Councillors Evans, Nash and Oppler were strongly of the view that no changes should be made to the current parish arrangements. It was agreed that they would meet separately so that they could form a response on this aspect of the draft recommendations. It was also suggested that any submission coming from Bognor Regis Town Council should also have input from these Councillors to provide added weight.

Bognor Regis and Bersted - concern was expressed over the wording in paragraph 43 of the report which contradicted the information contained in the accompanying maps relating to the Trees Estate moving into the Orchard ward. Requests were made that this be clarified by the Commission. A question was asked about paragraph 42 as the accompanying map did not appear to reflect the wording of the report. The Head of Democratic Services stated that she would ask the Commission to clarify these queries.

Ferring, Kingston, East Preston and Rustington – comments were made that much greater work needed to be undertaken on the draft recommendations for these areas as it was felt by Councillors Chapman and Bower that there were serious issues for retaining community identity from what was being proposed. There was also the view from these councillors that the proposals for East Preston and Rustington created artificial boundaries that could not be supported.

Littlehampton – the question was asked of why a new ward was being created? Concern was expressed over the proposed creation of the new Central ward which would include areas of River and Ham wards, particularly as it was felt that this could affect deprivation indices.

Discussion then focused on the proposed reduction in Council size from 56 to 53. Some Councillors stated that they were puzzled by this proposal as they felt it went against the principle of retaining community cohesion. Members shared the concerns of officers about coterminosity. It was considered important that warding arrangements were coterminous across district and parishes and there was the view that such change would confuse the electorate.

Some Members expressed deep concern about the process followed by the Commission. The argument was put forward that what was being proposed outside of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis did not fit. It was felt that the recommendations did not recognise the individual communities within the areas of Ferring, East Preston, Rustington and Findon. There was the view by some of the Sub-Committee that what had been recommended was based on equality of numbers only, to the exclusion of other interests. For this reason, one Member suggested there was a strong case for requesting a judicial review. This suggestion was not supported by the remainder of the Sub-Committee.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that to take their response forward they firstly needed to agree on the areas where there was support; and then identify the areas that required further work. Individual Councillors would have their own views and it was important for these to be sent to the Head of Democratic Services so that they could be collated and ready for consideration at Full Council on 24 October 2012. He outlined to Members that the reason for the Commission's recommendations was that they believed that the arguments that had been put forward previously had not been convincing enough for the areas concerned.

A long debate then took place as to how the Sub-Committee should proceed and what it should submit to Full Council in terms of a response to the Commission's draft recommendations. Various suggestions were made in that work should recommence working from East to West which was seen as key to how the figures would then fall and would assist in retaining community interest. It was felt that the process had been back to front looking at Council size first. Some Members continued to be of the view that a Council size of 53 could not be applied across the District on the grounds this had too much of an adverse effect on communities outside of the urban area. Others referred to the work of the Electoral Review Sub-Group which had worked through a range of detailed information. From that, it had been clear that any solution would not be perfect, though it had been accepted that the interest of the community and the issue of electoral equality and democratic accountability should be paramount.

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Following further discussion, Councillor Nash then proposed "That the Council should note the draft recommendations and that Ward Councillors, Town and Parish Councils; interested groups and individuals should be encouraged to send in submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England". This proposal was seconded by Councillor Oppler.

A further detailed discussion then took place on this proposal. Some Members were against Councillor Nash's proposal, due to the strength of feeling that had already been expressed by Members and the view that there should be the opportunity for Full Council to be able to consider its own response to the draft recommendations received. Speaking for the proposal, Members' views were that to re-open a debate on Council size would weaken the Council's position in terms of submitting new proposals to the Commission. Their view was that it would be far better to note the report and to encourage, under the spirit of localism, individual Councillors and Town and Parish Councils to make their own submissions as local submissions would be able to present far better the arguments from people close on the ground. Members were also reminded that there was no capacity within the Democratic Services Team to mount an alternative set of proposals.

On putting the proposal to the vote, 3 voted for it and 3 voted against it. The Chairman then voted for the proposal using his casting vote and so the proposal was declared CARRIED.

Therefore, the Sub-Committee

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

That the Council should note the draft recommendations and that Ward Councillors, Town and Parish Councils; interested groups and individuals should be encouraged to send in submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

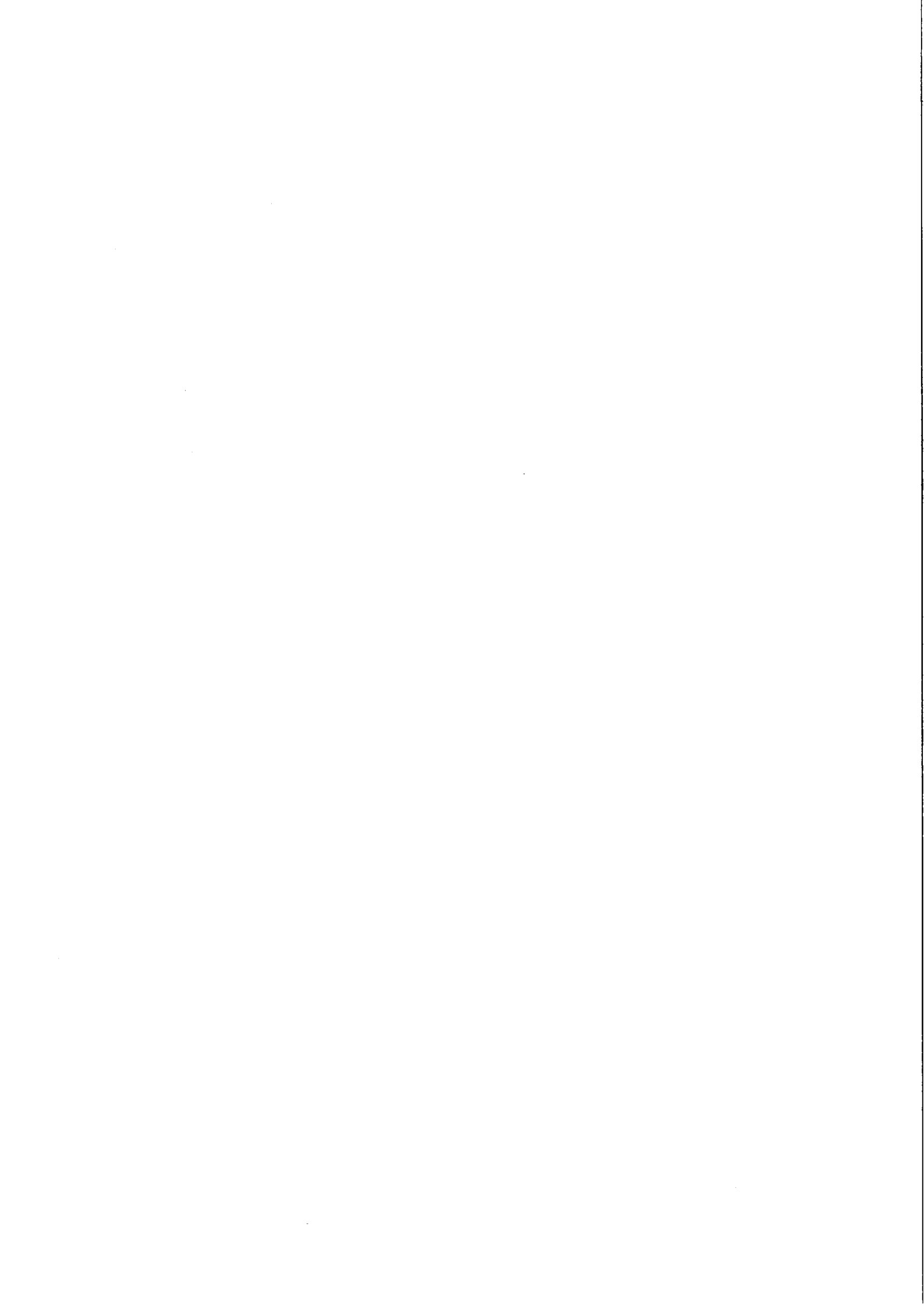
6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Sub-Committee received and agreed to the revised timetable that had been circulated at the meeting.

It was confirmed that the meeting proposed for 13 December 2012 be cancelled in view of the new consultation timetable that was being worked to as decided by LGBCE. It was explained that the revised meeting date of 30 January 2013, would then be able to consider reports back on the Review of the Annual Canvass of Electors for 2012, issues arising from the PCC Elections on 15 November 2012; and the review of Polling Stations.

As the final recommendations from LGBCE would be issued at the end of February 2013, a further meeting would be held on 25 March 2013.

(The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm)



Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Arun District Council

Summary

Who we are:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas.

Electoral reviews:

The purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards – for a local authority.

Why Arun?

We are conducting an electoral review of Arun District Council to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Arun currently has high levels of electoral inequality so that the value of your vote - in district council elections - varies depending on where you live in the district.

Council size

The Commission recommends that Arun District Council should be represented by 54 councillors in future: two fewer than the current arrangements.

In previous phases of the review, the Commission was minded to recommend 53 councillors for the district. Following its public consultation on draft recommendations, the Commission now believes that 54 councillors would deliver a warding pattern that best reflects the statutory criteria that guide electoral reviews.

The Commission considers that a council size of 54 district councillors will ensure the council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and will provide for a pattern of wards that reflects community interests across Arun.

Electoral arrangements

Our final recommendations propose that Arun's 54 councillors should represent 15 two-member wards and eight three-member wards across the district.

The Commission believes its final recommendations meet its obligations - which are set out in law - to:

- Deliver electoral equality for voters.
- Reflect local community interests and identities.
- Promote effective and convenient local government.

You can read the full report and view the maps on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk and consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

Stage starts	Description
28 February 2012	Public consultation on new warding arrangements
8 May 2012	LGBCE analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
4 September 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
4 December 2012	Analysis of submissions and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

The Commission received 104 responses to the consultation on its draft recommendations.

All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

General analysis

Bognor Regis and Bersted

The Commission considered the possibility of including the whole of the parish of Bersted in a single ward. However, the Commission did not believe the evidence presented to it could justify such a high level of electoral inequality where voters in Bersted would be significantly under-represented compared to other parts of the district. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bersted as final.

Felpham and Yapton

In this part of Arun, the Commission carefully considered the area of Flansham and representations to include it as part of Yapton ward. We noted that there is no direct road access between Flansham and the village of Yapton without travelling through the parish of Middleton-on-Sea. Given the lack of complete internal access throughout a ward which includes both Yapton and Flansham, the Commission recommends to retain its draft recommendations as final and that the Flansham area should form part of Felpham East ward.

The Commission notes the view expressed to it that a future Community Governance Review could recommend to change the parish boundary between Yapton and Middleton-on-Sea so that there is access between Yapton and Flansham. If Arun District Council were minded to undertake a review and to recommend such an alteration to the boundary, the Commission would consider a related alteration to the district ward boundary.

Our final recommendations for the Greater Bognor Regis area are

for 11 two-member wards called: Aldwick East, Aldwick West, Felpham East, Felpham West, Hotham, Marine, Middleton-on-Sea, Orchard, Pagham, Pevensy and Yapton and one three-member Bersted ward.

Arundel, Walberton and Barnham

The Commission considered evidence that suggested there would not be close community ties across all parts of its proposed three-member Arundel & Walberton ward. However, splitting the proposed ward into two parts would lead to high levels of electoral inequality in the Arundel area which would have 16% fewer electors than the average for Arun.

Similarly, the Commission noted evidence which proposed a single-member Findon ward. However, such a ward would also deliver poor levels of electoral equality for local voters.

In both cases, the Commission therefore confirms its draft recommendations as final. As such, our final recommendations for the central rural part of Arun are for three three-member wards called Angmering & Findon, Arundel & Walberton and Barnham.

East Preston, Ferring and Rustington East

The Commission considered the objections made to its draft recommendation to include part of Angmering parish in Ferring ward. In addition to strong representations against our draft recommendations, the Commission received persuasive evidence in favour of a two-member ward which would incorporate the parish of Ferring only.

A two-member Ferring ward would include 16% fewer voters than the average for Arun district. However, under a council size of 54 councillors, the variance would be reduced to 14%. The Commission therefore proposes that Arun should have 54 councillors and that there should

be a two-member Ferring ward where the boundaries are coterminous with the parish.

The knock-on effects of our proposals in Ferring mean that we are now proposing to change our draft recommendations so that the boundaries remain the same as the existing arrangements for East Preston ward and Rustington East ward.

Littlehampton and Rustington West

The Commission proposes to alter its draft recommendations so that the north-western part of Rustington parish is included in Rustington West ward and not Brookfield ward as previously suggested. The changes are in line with representations received from local people and groups.

In Littlehampton, the Commission carefully considered evidence submitted by Littlehampton Town Council. As a result, we propose to rename our proposed Central ward as River ward and our proposed Wick with Toddington ward as Courtwick with Toddington ward.

The final recommendations for the Greater Littlehampton area are for four two-member Beach, Brookfield, Ferring and Rustington East wards, and four three-member Courtwick with Toddington, East Preston, River and Rustington West wards.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of Arun District Council.

The recommendations we have published must now be approved by Parliament. A draft order - the legal document which brings into force our recommendations - will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the district council elections in 2015.

The full report and maps are available at: www.lgbce.org.uk and consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Arun to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in August 2011.

This review was conducted in four stages:

Stage starts	Description
28 February 2012	Initial consultation – all interested parties invited to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
8 May 2012	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
4 September 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
4 December 2012	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Draft recommendations

We proposed a council size of 53 members, comprising a pattern of 16 two-member and seven three-member wards. The recommendations were broadly based on a combination of Arun District Council's submission and a joint submission from the opposition groups. Our draft recommendations for Arun sought to reflect the evidence of community identities received while ensuring good electoral equality and providing for effective and convenient local government.

Submissions received

During Stage Three, the Commission received 104 submissions, including one from Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Worthing West), 13 from local councillors, a submission from Arun District Council comprising further comments from local councillors, 11 from parish and town councils, one from a local organisation, and 77 from members of the public. All submissions can be viewed on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

Arun District Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2018, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2013. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 8.2% over this period. The electorate forecasts include large-scale

developments in Littlehampton, Bersted and Felpham. We are content that the forecasts are the most accurate available at this time and have used these figures as the basis of our final recommendations.

General analysis

Throughout the review process, the primary consideration has been to achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government. Having considered the submissions received during consultation on our draft recommendations, we have sought to reflect community identities and improve the levels of electoral fairness. Our final recommendations take account of submissions received during consultation on our draft recommendations. As a result, we have proposed amendments to ward boundaries in the south-east of the district, to wards in Littlehampton, Rustington, East Preston, Angmering and Ferring.

Our final recommendations for Arun are that the Council should have 54 members, with 15 two-member wards and eight three-member wards. Two of the wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2018.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Arun District Council. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament and will be implemented subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Arun District Council, in 2015.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

You can also view our final recommendations for Arun District Council on our interactive maps at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Arun District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 The submission received from Arun District Council during the initial stage of this review informed our *Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Arun District Council*, which were published on 4 September 2012. We then undertook a further period of consultation which ended on 3 December 2012.

What is an electoral review?

3 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

4 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation¹ and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why are we conducting a review in Arun?

5 We decided to conduct this review because, based on the December 2010 electorate figures, more than 30% of the existing wards have 10% more or fewer electors per councillor than the district average, and the Council requested an electoral review.

How will our recommendations affect you?

6 Our recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the council. They will also determine which electoral ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish ward you vote in. Your electoral ward name may change, as may the names of parish wards in the area. If you live in a parish, the name or boundaries of that parish will not change.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Sir Tony Redmond
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and final recommendations

8 We have now finalised our recommendations for the electoral arrangements for Arun.

9 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Arun District Council is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector's vote being worth the same as another's. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009² with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

10 Legislation also requires that our recommendations are not based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but reflect estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the end of the review. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward.

11 The achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. In all our reviews we therefore recommend strongly that, in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. We aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

12 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Arun District Council or the external boundaries or names of parish or town councils, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that our recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. Our proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions Received

13 Prior to, and during, the initial stages of the review, we visited Arun District Council ('the Council') and met with members and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received a submission from the Council relating to council size, 11 submissions during the formulation of our draft recommendations, and 101 submissions during our consultation on the draft recommendations. A further three submissions were received shortly after the consultation closed on draft recommendations which we were able to take into account in reaching our conclusions. All submissions may be inspected at both our

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

offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

14 We take the evidence received during consultation very seriously and the submissions were carefully considered before we formulated our final recommendations. Officers from the Commission have been assisted by officers at Arun District Council who have provided relevant information throughout the review.

Electorate Figures

15 As part of this review, Arun District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2018, projecting an increase in the electorate of approximately 8.2% over the six-year period from 2012–18.

16 While this is a relatively large increase in electorate, we are satisfied that the largest developments – in the Bersted, Felpham and Littlehampton – are correctly projected to add a large number of electors to the district by 2018. Outside of specific development and urban areas, growth in the electorate is modest within the six-year period.

17 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are content to use their figures as the basis of our final recommendations.

Council Size

18 Arun District Council currently has 56 councillors elected from 26 district wards, comprising two single-member, 18 two-member and six three-member wards. During preliminary discussions on council size, the Council proposed a council size of 53, a reduction of three from the existing council size.

19 In support of its proposal, the Council provided extensive evidence relating to the representative role of councillors and the increased complexity of councillor workloads. The Council argued that a small reduction would improve efficiency, but had concerns that a large reduction would damage the ability of councillors to represent their communities and effectively conduct council business. We carefully considered the evidence received and were minded to agree a council size of 53. We invited the Council and other interested parties to submit proposals for warding arrangements based on a council size of 53.

20 During the initial consultation on warding arrangements, the Council argued that only a council size of 56 enabled a satisfactory pattern of wards. However, the submission did not discuss the council size in relation to governance and management of council business, or the representational role and workload of councillors. As we had received stronger evidence from the Council for a council size of 53 than 56 earlier in the review, we based our draft recommendations on 53 members.

21 During consultation on our draft recommendations, we again received submissions based on a council size of 56. These made the assertion that as a council size of 53 created an unsatisfactory warding arrangement, the council should retain 56 members. We do not consider that a case has been made to move to a council size of 56.

22 However, we are able to consider a council size either one above or below that which we had been previously minded to adopt that better reflects our statutory criteria. During consultation on the draft recommendations a number of submissions suggested warding arrangements requiring one additional councillor. We therefore considered alternative warding arrangements based on council sizes of 52 and 54. In order to reflect consultation responses in the east of the district, we have based our final recommendations on a council size of 54.

Electoral fairness

23 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations should provide for electoral fairness whilst ensuring that we reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

24 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we calculate the average number of electors per councillor. The district average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the district (114,477 in 2011 and 123,886 by 2018) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council – 54 under our final recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 2,119 in 2011 and 2,294 by 2018.

25 Under our final recommendations, only two of our proposed 23 wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2018. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness under our final recommendations for Arun.

General Analysis

26 We received 104 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations.

27 In the Greater Bognor Regis area, we received submissions concerning the boundary between Felpham East and Yapton, in the Flansham area. We also received objections to the revised parish warding consequential to our draft recommendations.

28 In Central Rural Arun, we received objections from residents of Walberton to our proposal for a ward covering both Arundel and Walberton. We also received objections from residents of Findon to our proposal to place Findon in a three-member ward with Angmering.

29 In the Greater Littlehampton area, we received a large number of submissions from residents in the East Preston area, expressing opposition to the proposal to place part of East Preston parish in a Rustington East ward. We also received submissions objecting to part of southern Angmering being included in our proposed Ferring ward. Submissions also objected to the proposed Brookfield ward containing part of Rustington parish. In the Littlehampton area we received an alternative warding arrangement from Littlehampton Town Council.

30 Our final recommendations result in 54 councillors representing 15 two-member

and eight three-member wards. A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table B1 (on pages 24–25) and the map accompanying this report.

Electoral Arrangements

31 This section of the report details the submissions received, our consideration of them, and our final recommendations for each area of Arun. The following areas are considered in turn:

- Greater Bognor Regis (page 8)
- Central Rural Arun (page 10)
- Greater Littlehampton (page 12)

Greater Bognor Regis

32 The draft recommendations for greater Bognor Regis were for 10 two-member wards and one three-member ward. During the first stage of consultation, we received submissions concerning Bognor Regis from Bognor Regis Town Council and two local residents, in addition to the warding patterns from the Council and opposition groups on the Council. We also received three submissions relating to the Felpham and Yapton area.

33 Our draft recommendations for Bognor Regis and Bersted were broadly based on the opposition groups' scheme, with some minor modifications. We departed from their proposal for the boundary between Bersted and Orchard wards, using the centre of Fairlands (a residential road) as a boundary. We also made a minor change to the boundary between the proposed Pevensey and Marine wards around Burnham Avenue, in order to improve electoral equality.

Bognor Regis and Bersted

34 During our consultation on draft recommendations, we received five submissions specifically relating to Bognor Regis and Bersted. Of these, two were from parish and town councils, and two from parish and town councillors. We also received comments from the Council relating to this area.

35 Bersted Parish Council argued for the entirety of Bersted parish to fall within one district ward. It stated that this would ensure effective community representation for all residents of Bersted. It also argued for the removal of parish warding in Bersted, on the grounds that the existing parish warding arrangement had not provided convenient and effective parish governance.

36 We note that a Bersted ward entirely coterminous with Bersted parish would contain 13% more electors per councillor than the district average. Although Bersted Parish Council provided some community evidence in support of a coterminous parish and district ward, we do not consider that the evidence provided is sufficient to justify this level of electoral inequality.

37 Although we acknowledge Bersted Parish Council's concerns regarding parish warding, we must have regard to district wards when creating parish warding arrangements. We cannot remove the parish wards in this instance. We are therefore confirming as final our draft recommendations in Bersted.

38 In Bognor Regis, we received submissions from Councillor Nash (Pevensey ward), Bognor Regis Town Council, and two councillors on Bognor Regis Town Council. All representations were broadly supportive of our draft recommendations. However, Bognor Regis Town Council and the two town councillors also requested amended parish warding arrangements, suggesting that parish wards remain entirely coterminous with district wards.

39 When creating parish wards, we are required to ensure that no parish ward crosses either a district ward or a county electoral division boundary. We explored the possibility of amending our draft recommendations in order to simplify the parish warding arrangements. However, we found that the draft recommendations for district wards would have to be significantly changed in order to provide a simpler pattern of parish wards. As all submissions received were supportive of the district warding arrangements, we are not minded to amend our draft recommendations, so are therefore unable to change the parish warding arrangements in Bognor Regis.

40 As the submissions received were broadly supportive of the district warding arrangements in Bognor Regis, we are confirming as final our draft recommendations for this area.

Felpham and Yapton

41 During our consultation on draft recommendations, we received six submissions relating to the Flansham area, between Felpham and Yapton. Councillor English (Felpham ward) supported our draft recommendation to place Flansham in Felpham East. The other five representations, from Yapton Parish Council, Flansham Residents Association, and three residents, disagreed and suggested Flansham should be placed in Yapton ward.

42 When drawing up our draft recommendations, we noted that the settlement of Flansham is not directly linked to the remainder of Yapton parish. Instead, residents must travel through neighbouring Middleton-on-Sea parish in order to reach the village of Yapton. The submissions received from Yapton Parish Council, Flansham Residents Association, Councillor Holman (Felpham East ward) and two local residents acknowledged this, but also argued that a relief road being built between the settlements of Felpham and Flansham would provide a strong boundary between the two communities. While we accept that the relief road may become a strong boundary, we note that the settlement of Flansham is still significantly closer geographically to Felpham than to Yapton.

43 Yapton Parish Council also stated that it was seeking to have the parish boundary with Middleton-on-Sea parish amended, so that in future Flansham would have access to the remainder of Yapton parish. Were this to be the case, the issue of access within Yapton parish would be resolved. It is, of course, open to the district council to undertake a community governance review to address the parish boundary issue and, subject to the outcome of that review, to seek related alterations to district ward boundaries. We will consider any such request received. However, we are only able to make our recommendations based on the boundaries as they exist at the moment. Accordingly, we are confirming as final our draft recommendations for Felpham and Yapton.

44 We did not receive any submissions relating to ward boundaries in Aldwick, Middleton-on-Sea, or Pagham. We are confirming as final our draft recommendations in these areas.

45 We received a submission from a member of the public concerning alternative names for wards, including some in the Greater Bognor Regis area. However, we consider that the ward names proposed in our draft recommendations suitably describe the wards and so confirm those names.

46 Our final recommendations for the Greater Bognor Regis area are for 11 two-member Aldwick East, Aldwick West, Felpham East, Felpham West, Hotham, Marine, Middleton-on-Sea, Orchard, Pagham, Pevensey and Yapton wards, and one three-member Bersted ward. These wards are projected to have 3% fewer, 8% more, 6% more, 9% more, 5% fewer, 3% more, 8% fewer, 3% fewer, 8% more, 7% fewer, 4% fewer and 5% more electors per councillor than the district average by 2018, respectively.

47 These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

Central Rural Arun

48 Our draft recommendations for Central Rural Arun were for the three-member wards of Angmering & Findon, Arundel & Walberton, and Barnham.

Arundel, Walberton and Barnham

49 During our consultation on draft recommendations, we received six submissions relating to our proposed Arundel & Walberton and Barnham wards. Submissions were received from Walberton and Slindon parish councils, from Councillor Dingemans (Walberton ward) and Councillor Dendle (Arundel ward), jointly from councillors Charles, Goad and Maconachie (Barnham ward), and from a local resident.

50 Councillors Charles, Goad and Maconachie stated that they were satisfied with the proposed Barnham ward.

51 The remaining submissions relating to this area objected to our proposal for a three-member Arundel & Walberton ward, arguing that Walberton and Arundel did not share community identity. The local resident stated that the A27 road was not a link between the areas containing Fontwell and Walberton and the Arundel area. The local resident also argued that Fontwell's and Walberton's needs would be damaged by being placed in a ward with Arundel.

52 Slindon Parish Council stated that it supported a single-member Walberton ward, and suggested that a multi-member ward covering Arundel and Walberton would cause confusion for local residents about which member to approach.

53 We accept the central argument that Arundel and Walberton are two separate communities without close links. However, we also note that an Arundel and Walberton ward would not divide communities between different wards, but rather unite two different communities. We do not accept the local resident's argument that the communities in the Walberton area would be disadvantaged by including the entire area in a ward with Arundel.

54 Although a single-member Walberton ward would have good electoral equality, containing 1% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018; this would have a detrimental effect on Arundel. A two-member Arundel ward containing

the remainder of the Arundel & Walberton ward proposed in our draft recommendations would have 16% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. We are not persuaded by the evidence received that there is sufficient reason to justify this high level of electoral inequality. The only way to create wards with acceptable electoral equality would therefore be to split either Slindon or Walberton parishes and, as the evidence received points to these being strong communities or parishes, we do not believe this presents the best balance of the statutory criteria.

55 Therefore, in order to ensure a reasonable level of electoral equality while ensuring that no communities are split between wards, we are confirming as final our draft recommendations for Arundel & Walberton, and Barnham. These wards would have 4% fewer and equal to the district average electors per councillor by 2018 respectively.

Angmering and Findon

56 We received four submissions regarding our proposed Angmering & Findon ward. These were from Findon Parish Council, Councillor Jones (Findon ward), and two local residents.

57 All submissions argued that Findon was a distinct community, separate to Angmering, with different community links, and notably without a direct public transport link. Findon Parish Council expressed a concern that being included in a ward with Angmering would lead to Findon's interests not being adequately represented. Councillor Jones noted that Findon, Patching and Clapham were rural, historic villages of different character to 'the more modern Angmering'.

58 Although a single-member Findon ward, incorporating the parishes of Findon, Patching and Clapham, would have good electoral equality, containing 5% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018, this would have a detrimental effect on electoral equality in Angmering. A two-member Angmering ward containing the remainder of the Angmering & Findon ward proposed in our draft recommendations would have 19% more electors per councillor than the district average by 2018 – an unacceptably high level of electoral inequality which could only be addressed by dividing Angmering between wards.

59 Although we accept that including Findon in a ward with Angmering is not an ideal situation for residents of Findon, we consider that it is preferable to place two communities together than to divide one community. Under our final recommendations a three-member Angmering & Findon ward would contain 11% more electors per councillor than the district average.

60 Therefore, in order to ensure a reasonable level of electoral equality while ensuring that no communities are divided between wards, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Angmering and Findon with a small modification to include the area around Ecclesden Manor in order not to create an unviable parish ward.

61 Our final recommendations for Central Rural Arun are for three three-member wards of Angmering & Findon, Arundel & Walberton, and Barnham. These wards would have 11% more, 4% fewer and equal to the district average number of electors per councillor by 2018 respectively.

62 These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

Greater Littlehampton

East Preston, Ferring and Rustington East

63 We received 71 representations on the boundaries between East Preston, Ferring and Rustington East. All these submissions objected to our draft recommendations in this area. Those that offered an alternative expressed a preference for the current ward boundaries to remain unchanged.

64 In the East Preston area the predominant objection was that our proposed boundary between East Preston and Rustington East divided the community. Under our draft recommendations, St Mary's Church, Langmead Recreation Ground and the Willowhayne Estate would be placed in a ward with Rustington East. Submissions, including those from Sir Peter Bottomley MP and East Preston Parish Council, asserted that these areas were integral parts of the community of East Preston. Local residents were particularly concerned at the prospect of St Mary's Church being placed in Rustington East ward, arguing that this split the village of East Preston and divided a community.

65 Our proposed Ferring ward also drew comment, particularly regarding the inclusion of the southern part of Angmering parish. While respondents agreed with our rationale for keeping Ferring and Kingston in separate wards, they argued that the same reasoning should be applied to keep Ferring and South Angmering in separate wards. Ferring Parish Council also argued that Ferring was a natural community and that its strong sense of separation from the remainder of the district made a case for a Ferring ward comprising only Ferring parish.

66 We note that, as argued in submissions, Ferring is a disconnected community, with its own unique identity distinct from the remainder of the district. However, South Angmering is separated from Ferring by what a respondent referred to as a 'strategic gap', and looks either to Angmering or East Preston. Including South Angmering with Ferring places a small section of a different community with an area to which it does not have community ties.

67 A two-member Ferring ward incorporating only Ferring parish would contain 16% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018 under a council size of 53. Several submissions suggested that we depart from the figure of 53 councillors which was adopted following the submission made by Arun District Council during initial discussions on council size. Submissions including that by Ferring Parish Council suggested adopting a council size of 56 in order to facilitate a two-member Ferring ward.

68 In light of the representations received, we considered whether an adjusted council size might resolve the concerns expressed to us in relation to this area. A two-member Ferring ward under a council size of 54 rather than 56 would contain 14% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. While we would often consider that a poor level of electoral equality was undesirable, in this instance we are content that a sufficient level of community evidence has been received to support a two-member Ferring ward incorporating Ferring parish only.

69 As a result of our recommendations for Ferring, the South Angmering area needs to be included in a ward with either East Preston or Angmering. We note that

in the submissions received, there was no strong case made regarding which of these it identified with, merely that it did not identify with Ferring.

70 When touring the area, we noted that the South Angmering area, south of the A259, is part of a contiguous development with the northern part of East Preston. Angmering Village is separated from South Angmering by the A259, and is less urban in character. Furthermore, in East Preston, a large number of submissions suggested that the ward boundaries should be identical to those currently existing. Without including South Angmering, East Preston would contain 10% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. By including South Angmering, it would have 2% more. Accordingly, we propose to place South Angmering in East Preston ward.

71 Our proposals for Angmering would have a knock-on effect on Rustington East ward, making it a two-member ward with 24% more electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. To counter this, we are proposing the boundary between Rustington East and Rustington West should be identical to the current ward boundary.

72 Overall, this means that in order to better reflect community identities, we are amending our draft recommendations in this area to provide two two-member Ferring and Rustington East wards, and a three-member East Preston ward.

Littlehampton and Rustington West

73 In Rustington West and Littlehampton, we received seven submissions relating to our draft recommendations, including a warding pattern in Littlehampton from Littlehampton Town Council. The majority of these representations argued against the inclusion of the north-western part of Rustington parish in Brookfield ward. In particular, Councillor Clayden's submission highlighted the strength of the community of Rustington as a whole, and argued that those residents of north-western Rustington look towards Rustington centre for their shopping and other community needs.

74 As a consequence of our final recommendations for Rustington East (paragraphs 64–72), the remainder of our proposed Rustington West ward would have 10% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. In order to take account of the arguments made during consultation and to improve electoral equality, we are proposing to include the north-western part of Rustington in Rustington West ward.

75 In Littlehampton, Littlehampton Town Council proposed an alternative warding pattern to reflect community identities. This included a two-member Courtwick with Toddington ward entirely north of the A259, an amended Brookfield ward including the small area around Oakcroft Gardens, a Ham ward running from the A259 in the west to the area around Littlehampton Community School in the east, and a slightly amended boundary between Beach and Central (named River in their scheme) wards.

76 We received further support for a two-member Wick with Toddington ward from a local resident, saying that the socio-economic differences between the two areas meant the two did not share a common identity, and had different issues.

77 Littlehampton Town Council's scheme was supported by evidence of community identities. However, it did not provide for good electoral equality. Given our final recommendations are based on a council size of 54, Littlehampton Town Council's proposed Courtwick with Toddington ward would contain 14% fewer electors than the district average by 2018. Given current electoral figures, this ward would contain 37% fewer electors per councillor than the district average directly upon implementation. We consider that there is insufficient justification for such a poor level of electoral equality.

78 Additionally, Littlehampton Town Council's proposed Wick ward would have no internal access, with residents of the Grove Crescent and Thorncroft Road area being cut off from the remainder of the ward.

79 As a result of our final recommendations for Rustington West (paragraph 74), the remainder of our proposed Brookfield ward would contain 14% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2018. Therefore, we are proposing to place the areas east of Elm Grove School, Cornfield School and Littlehampton Community School in a two-member Brookfield ward. This ensures a good level of electoral equality throughout the Littlehampton area.

80 Littlehampton Town Council also suggested alternative ward names in Littlehampton. As such, we are proposing to rename our proposed Central ward as 'River', and our proposed Wick with Toddington ward as 'Courtwick with Toddington'.

81 Littlehampton Town Council also expressed a preference for coterminous parish and district wards. However, as in the Bersted and Bognor Regis areas (paragraphs 34–40), we are required to recommend parish warding which takes into account both district wards and county divisions.

82 Our final recommendations for the Greater Littlehampton area are for four two-member Beach, Brookfield, Ferring and Rustington East wards, and four three-member Courtwick with Toddington, East Preston, River and Rustington West wards. These wards would have 6% fewer, 1% more, 14% fewer, 1% fewer, 1% more, 2% more, 4% fewer and equal to the average number of electors per councillor than the district average by 2018.

83 These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

Conclusions

84 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2012 and 2018 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements – final recommendations

	Final recommendations	
	2012	2018
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	2,119	2,294
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Arun District Council should comprise 54 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Table B1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

85 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 divisions or wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division or ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

86 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority division arrangements. However, the respective principal authority (the district or borough council in the area) has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

87 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Aldingbourne, Aldwick, Angmering, Bersted, Bognor Regis, Eastergate, Felpham, and Littlehampton.

88 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Aldingbourne parish.

Final recommendations

Aldingbourne Parish Council should return 10 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Racecourse (returning one member) and Aldingbourne & Westergate (returning nine members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

89 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Aldwick parish.

Final recommendations

Aldwick Parish Council should return 14 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Aldwick East (returning six members), Aldwick West (returning five members), Barrack Lane (returning one member) and St Richard's (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

90 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Angmering parish.

Final recommendations

Angmering Parish Council should return 13 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Angmering Village (returning 11 members) and South Angmering (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

91 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Bersted parish.

Final recommendations

Bersted Parish Council should return 14 parish councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Bersted Brooks (returning two members), Bersted Green (returning one member) and Bersted North (returning 11 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

92 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Bognor Regis parish.

Final recommendations

Bognor Regis Town Council should return 16 parish councillors, as at present, representing six wards: Hatherleigh (returning one member), Hotham (returning four members), Marine (returning three members), Marine North (returning one member), Orchard (returning four members) and Pevensey (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

93 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Eastergate parish.

Final recommendations

Eastergate Parish Council should return nine parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Fontwell (returning one member), and Eastergate and West Barnham (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

94 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Felpham parish.

Final recommendations

Felpham Parish Council should return 16 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Felpham East (returning eight members), and Felpham West (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

95 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Littlehampton parish.

Final recommendations

Littlehampton Town Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing eight wards: Beach (returning three members), Brookfield (returning two members), Cornfield (returning one member), Courtwick with Toddington (returning two members), Elm Grove (returning one member), Ham (returning two members), River (returning three members), and Wick (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

96 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Arun District Council. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Arun District Council in 2015.

Equalities

97 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

4 Mapping

Final recommendations for Arun

98 The following map illustrates our proposed ward boundaries for Arun District Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Arun District Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Arun District Council on our interactive maps at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Appendix A

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Boundary Committee	The Boundary Committee for England was a committee of the Electoral Commission, responsible for undertaking electoral reviews
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve 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 ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral Commission	An independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament. Its aim is integrity and public confidence in the democratic process. It regulates party and election finance and sets standards for well-run elections
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral imbalance	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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or ward represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
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 ward 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 vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council

PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Committee for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
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 ward than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or ward 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

Appendix B

Table B1: Final recommendations for Arun District Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Aldwick East	2	4,478	2,239	6%	4,447	2,224	-3%
2 Aldwick West	2	4,951	2,476	17%	4,954	2,477	8%
3 Angmering & Findon	3	7,179	2,393	13%	7,642	2,547	11%
4 Arundel & Walberton	3	6,511	2,170	2%	6,619	2,206	-4%
5 Barnham	3	6,433	2,144	1%	6,871	2,290	0%
6 Beach	2	3,874	1,937	-9%	4,327	2,164	-6%
7 Bersted	3	5,687	1,896	-11%	7,197	2,399	5%
8 Brookfield	2	4,479	2,240	6%	4,639	2,320	1%
9 Courtwick with Toddington	3	5,410	1,803	-15%	6,978	2,326	1%
10 East Preston	3	6,835	2,278	7%	6,993	2,331	2%
11 Felpham East	2	4,177	2,089	-1%	4,849	2,425	6%
12 Felpham West	2	3,752	1,876	-11%	4,986	2,493	9%

Table B1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Arun District Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Ferring	2	3,996	1,998	-6%	3,944	1,972	-14%
14 Hotham	2	3,832	1,916	-10%	4,367	2,184	-5%
15 Marine	2	4,160	2,080	-2%	4,704	2,352	3%
16 Middleton-on-Sea	2	4,191	2,096	-1%	4,238	2,119	-8%
17 Orchard	2	4,243	2,122	0%	4,442	2,221	-3%
18 Pagham	2	4,942	2,471	17%	4,967	2,484	8%
19 Pevensey	2	3,639	1,820	-14%	4,252	2,126	-7%
20 River	3	6,219	2,073	-2%	6,614	2,205	-4%
21 Rustington East	2	4,459	2,230	5%	4,541	2,271	-1%
22 Rustington West	3	6,679	2,226	5%	6,894	2,298	0%
23 Yapton	2	4,321	2,161	2%	4,421	2,211	-4%
Totals	54	114,477	-	-	123,886	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,119	-	-	2,294	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Arun District Council.

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