



Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee 28th September 2015

West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services LDS/108

1. Purpose

This report informs the Committee of the review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England of the division boundaries of West Sussex County Council and invites the Committee to consider the proposed schemes submitted to the Commission.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee consider whether to support either of the schemes for County Council divisions for Crawley attached at Appendix A or B.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Committee to consider which of the schemes it supports.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is undertaking a boundary review of the divisions of West Sussex County Council during 2015/16. The deadline for submitting proposals was 31st August 2015 and having considered the submission the Commission will publish draft recommendations on 17th November 2015.
- 4.2 The aim of the electoral review is to recommend electoral division boundaries that mean each county councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. The Commission sets a tolerance for each division of 10% variance from the average number of electors per division. In 2014 one third of the Council's electoral divisions in 2014 were found to have populations of a greater variance than +10% or -10% of the average electorate.
- 4.3 The review also aims to ensure that the pattern of divisions reflects the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government.
- 4.4 West Sussex County Council have agreed proposed schemes for each area and the scheme for Crawley is attached as Appendix A. The West Sussex Labour Group has submitted a proposed scheme to the Boundary Commission and this is attached at Appendix B.

- 4.5 The Committee is asked to consider both the scheme proposed by West Sussex County Council and the scheme proposed by West Sussex Labour, and decide which scheme (if any) it wishes to support.

5. Implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 None

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Boundary Review of West Sussex County Council

Draft proposals for Crawley: July 2015

Crawley Borough Proposal:

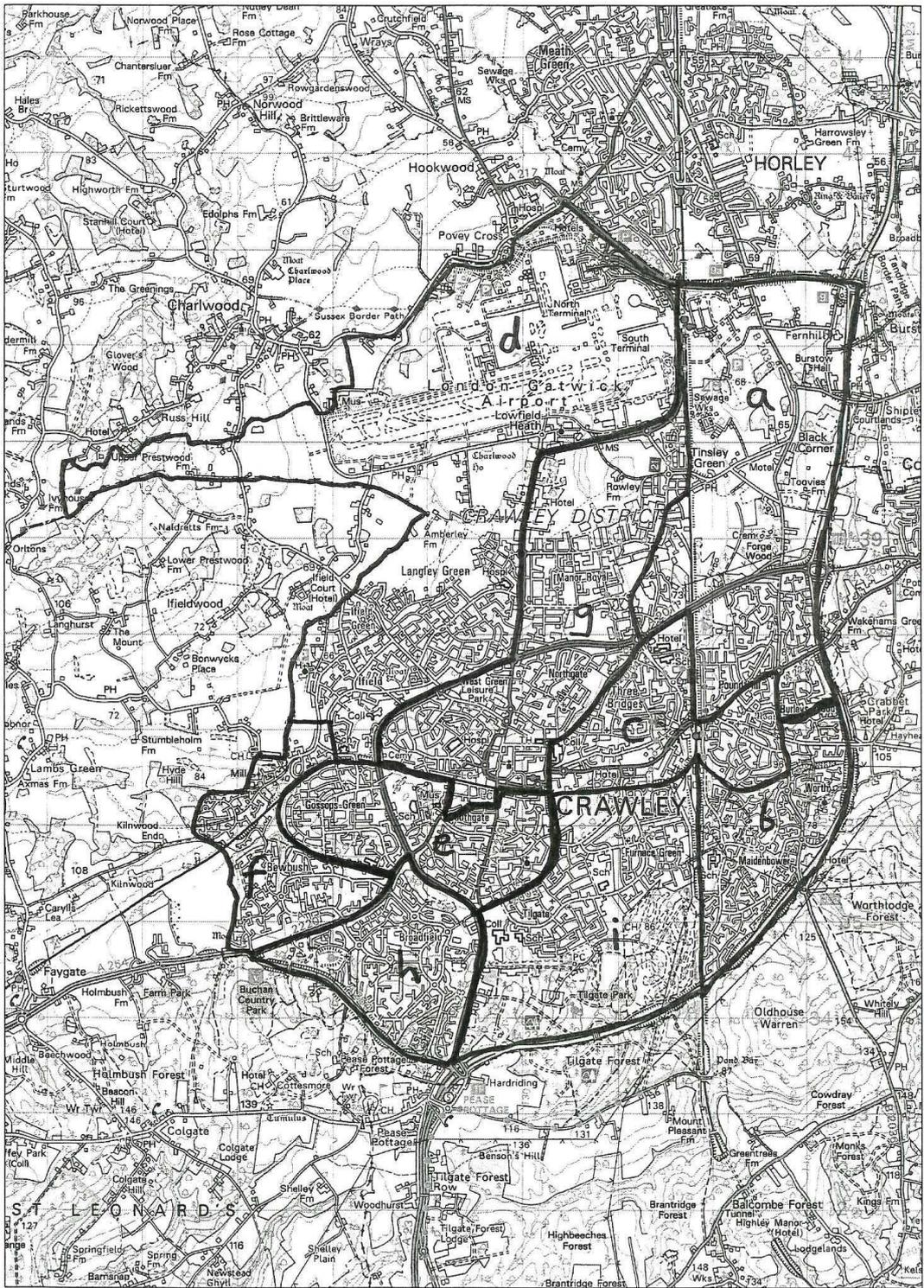
Divisions affected:

- (a) Pound Hill & Worth – To lose Worth and some of Pound Hill South LKB Polling District (2,205 electors). To gain the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges (471 electors). Rename ‘Pound Hill North’.
- (b) Maidenbower – To lose Pound Hill South LKA Polling District. To gain Worth and the remainder of Pound Hill South LKB Polling District that is not retained by Pound Hill North (2,205 electors). Rename ‘Maidenbower & Worth’.
- (c) Northgate & Three Bridges – To lose Northgate (3784 electors) and the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges (741 electors). To gain Pound Hill South LKA Polling District from Maidenbower and the Three Bridges Pembroke Park estate (2281 electors) from Southgate and Crawley Central. Rename ‘Three Bridges & Pound Hill South’.
- (d) Langley Green & West Green – To lose West Green and gain most of Ifield East (743 electors). Rename ‘Langley Green & Ifield East’.
- (e) Gossops Green & Ifield East – To lose Ifield East (743 electors) and gain most of Southgate (2927 electors). Rename ‘Southgate & Gossops Green’.
- (f) Bewbush & Ifield West – Minor change to take in more of Ifield (additional 615 electors, transferred from Southgate & Gossops Green).
- (g) New division of ‘Northgate & West Green’ - taking in Northgate and West Green, including the Northgate town centre Polling District from Southgate & Crawley Central (3784 electors), as well as a small part of Southgate (543 electors).
- (h) Broadfield – unchanged
- (i) Tilgate and Furnace Green – unchanged
- (j) Southgate & Crawley Central – Deleted

Key Considerations:

- For any Crawley scheme, in order to satisfy the Boundary Commission’s primary concern of electoral equality, the overriding issue in Crawley that must be addressed is the new Forge Wood estate being built in Pound Hill; that will add huge electorate growth east of the London to Brighton railway line. This housing growth which started this year is forecast to increase the LJB polling district in Pound Hill North by 2500 electors by 2021. Crawley Borough Council’s Local Plan states that there will be a further 175 properties built every year in Forge Wood in each of the five years from 2021 to 2025, with the final 125 properties being built in 2026.

- Because of this growth, the only way to have a fair and future-proofed scheme for Crawley is to breach the north-south railway line. The consequence of this is that a new scheme for Crawley is required.
- As there are nine county councillors and 15 borough council wards, it is not possible to achieve full co-terminosity in Crawley, but the proposed pattern of divisions sees a greater number of Crawley residents put back in their coterminus borough ward than those removed from it under the current scheme for Crawley. Co-terminosity is achieved in 11 of the 15 wards which is unchanged.



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Crawley Borough
Proposed new electoral divisions

1:35,000





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Electoral Divisions in Crawley Borough - Current

1:35,000



Crawley Scheme

Polling District	Division	2015 Electorate		current position							
			Bewbush & Ifield West	Broadfield	Langley Green & Ifield East	Maidenbower & Worth	Northgate & West Green	Pound Hill North	Southgate & Gossops Green	Three Bridges & Pound Hill South	Tilgate & Furnace Green
county ratio	CRAWLEY	77707	9223	9090	9473	8712	7892	6793	9803	7809	8912
70 Member variance	8897		3.7%	2.2%	6.5%	-2.1%	-11.3%	-23.6%	10.2%	-12.2%	0.2%
LA - Bewbush (La)	Bewbush & Ifield W	6314	6314								
LFC - Ifield West (Lfc)	Bewbush & Ifield W	2294	2294								
LBA - Broadfield North (Lba)	Broadfield	3149		3149							
LBB - Broadfield North (Lbb)	Broadfield	1485		1485							
LCA - Broadfield South (Lca)	Broadfield	1746		1746							
LCB - Broadfield South (Lcb)	Broadfield	2710		2710							
LE - Gossops Green (Le)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	3930							3930		
LFA - Ifield East (Lfa)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	3025			3025						
LFB - Ifield East (Lfb)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	1358	615		743						
LG - Langley Green (Lg)	Langley Green & W Green	5705			5705						
LO - West Green (Lo)	Langley Green & W Green	3565					3565				
LHA - Maidenbower (Lha)	Maidenbower	2754				2754					
LHB - Maidenbower (Lhb)	Maidenbower	3757				3757					
LKA - Pound Hill South and Worth (Lka)	Maidenbower	2819								2819	
LIA - Northgate (Lia)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	3784					3784				
LMA - Three Bridges North (Lma)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	2752						471		2281	
LMB - Three Bridges West (Lmb)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	1748								1748	
LJA - Pound Hill North (Lja)	Pound Hill & Worth	2924						2924			
LJB - Pound Hill North (Ljb)	Pound Hill & Worth	2143						2143			
LKB - Pound Hill South and Worth (Lkb)	Pound Hill & Worth	3456				2201		1255			
LIB - Northgate (Lib)	Southgate & Crawley Central	93					93				
LLA - Southgate East (Lla)	Southgate & Crawley Central	2946						2946			
LLB - Southgate West (Llb)	Southgate & Crawley Central	3377					450	2927			
LMC - Three Bridges (Lmc)	Southgate & Crawley Central	961								961	
LD - Furnace Green (Ld)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	4466									4466
LNA - Tilgate East (Lna)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2158									2158
LNB - Tilgate West (Lnb)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2288									2288

Crawley Scheme

Polling District	Division	2021 Electorate										
			Bewbush & Ifield West	Broadfield	Langley Green & Ifield East	Maidenbower & Worth	Northgate & West Green	Pound Hill North	Southgate & Gossops Green	Three Bridges & Pound Hill South	Tilgate & Furnace Green	
9	CRAWLEY											
county ratio	9619	85684	9692	9469	9848	8879	10000	9613	10294	8585	9294	
70 Member variance	9481		2.2%	-0.1%	3.9%	-6.3%	5.5%	1.4%	8.6%	-9.5%	-2.0%	
LA - Bewbush (La)	Bewbush & Ifield W	6658	6658									
LFC - Ifield West (Lfc)	Bewbush & Ifield W	2419	2419									
LBA - Broadfield North (Lba)	Broadfield	3280		3280								
LBB - Broadfield North (Lbb)	Broadfield	1547		1547								
LCA - Broadfield South (Lca)	Broadfield	1819		1819								
LCB - Broadfield South (Lcb)	Broadfield	2823		2823								
LE - Gossops Green (Le)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	4135							4135			
LFA - Ifield East (Lfa)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	3183			3183							
LFB - Ifield East (Lfb)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	1429	615		814							
LG - Langley Green (Lg)	Langley Green & W Green	5851			5851							
LO - West Green (Lo)	Langley Green & W Green	4236					4236					
LHA - Maidenbower (Lha)	Maidenbower	2801				2801						
LHB - Maidenbower (Lhb)	Maidenbower	3822				3822						
LKA - Pound Hill South and Worth (Lka)	Maidenbower	2863								2863		
LIA - Northgate (Lia)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	4450					4450					
LMA - Three Bridges North (Lma)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	3236						673		2563		
LMB - Three Bridges West (Lmb)	Northgate & 3 Bridges	2056								2056		
LJA - Pound Hill North (Lja)	Pound Hill & Worth	2995						2995				
LJB - Pound Hill North (Ljb)	Pound Hill & Worth	4670						4670				
LKB - Pound Hill South and Worth (Lkb)	Pound Hill & Worth	3541				2256		1275				
LIB - Northgate (Lib)	Southgate & Crawley Central	802					802					
LLA - Southgate East (Lla)	Southgate & Crawley Central	3120							3120			
LLB - Southgate West (Llb)	Southgate & Crawley Central	3551					512		3039			
LMC - Three Bridges (Lmc)	Southgate & Crawley Central	1103								1103		
LD - Furnace Green (Ld)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	4657									4657	
LNA - Tilgate East (Lna)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2251									2251	
LNB - Tilgate West (Lnb)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2386									2386	

Boundary Committee for England

28 August 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

BOUNDARY REVIEW FOR WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I am writing with reference to the boundary commission for England's review of the electoral division boundaries for West Sussex County Council, and attach alternative proposals for the Borough of Crawley.

This letter is based on the views of the West Sussex Labour Group, who comprise the majority (six of the nine) county councillors returned by the residents of the Borough of Crawley to West Sussex County Council.

We are extremely dissatisfied that despite proposals being worked up by council officers for a scheme that would have kept very similar arrangements, well within the requirements for electoral equality, our views have been disregarded and so wish to put forward an alternative scheme. I can confirm that this 9-member scheme for Crawley would be entirely compatible with the 70 member scheme put forward by the county council.

We believe the proposal put forward for Crawley by the County Council, put forward by the Conservative Group, is not suitable for Crawley. We believe it ignores existing arrangements unnecessarily, has odd, contorted boundaries, and entirely ignores the views of the majority of Crawley county councillors.

We can assure the commission that the existing arrangements have worked well, and with some minor amendments could still be made to work so that they satisfy the boundary commission's need for improved electoral equality, and for no division to be over 10% above or below the average size of an electoral division in West Sussex.

As a local member, I can assure you that the current arrangements have worked smoothly and that community groups and residents' forums are familiar with existing arrangements and are happy with them. Some of the areas the county council proposes are actually separated by significant barriers, like the A23, but unlike currently propose uniting areas with very few crossing points. While numbers are important, this cannot be at the expense of putting together community areas largely isolated from each other.

We also believe that the current proposal by the county council fails to take enough account of the population growth which will be occurring right across the Borough, not just in the new neighbourhood of Forge Wood. Because of Crawley's geographical location and favourable economic position, we believe this makes it far likelier that a very large proportion of the projected development will occur, as much in the West of the Borough as it is in Forge Wood. In particular, we anticipate much more intensive development coming onstream in the Town Centre area, which should be reflected in the figures for projected development that you have been provided by the council's officers.

In addition, we do not believe that you can get stronger community barriers than the north/south Brighton line separating Pound Hill and Maidenbower from the other wards in Crawley, which have very few crossing points. The county council's proposals completely ignore this.

It is for that reason that the county council's proposals, including the rather odd "butterfly" shaped proposed Three Bridges and Pound Hill South division are opposed by members of the West Sussex Labour Group. To our minds as local residents, it is not credible and indeed, beggars belief, that the area proposed at Three Bridges is viable, as this is bisected by a major multi-track railway with sidings and railway works. There are very few crossing points.

I set out in the spreadsheet accompanying this letter (attached with this email), the proposed scheme we are proposing.

The spreadsheet sets out proposals by division. Where, in the few cases I propose splitting an existing ward outside of a current polling district, in an effort to be helpful I set out the precise roads in this letter (together with electoral numbers) for the division being added to, so that the Committee can be completely clear which roads are being moved and which remain in their present division.

Aside from our proposals ensuring the retention of the vast majority of the current divisions largely intact, the proposal in this letter proposes boundaries which bring all of the area popularly recognised as "Old Crawley" into the one division (Southgate and Crawley Central), but also proposes an alternative, in our view more solid, community barrier in the Pound Hill/Maidenbower area based on the Worth Way, rather than being forced to go through, as it currently does in the county council's proposals, The Ridings which is in itself a relatively quiet residential road.

Other than those changes, I believe this scheme leaves the arrangements as they currently are, with an acceptable level of co-terminosity.

In this scheme, the following roads would be moved in from Langley Green and West Green to Southgate and Crawley Central division to address electoral equality.

Road	2015 electorate	2021 Total	
High Street (Robinson House)	25		
Pegler Way from High Street to roundabout junction with Ifield Rd	95		
Ifield Rd east of roundabout	8		
Victoria Road	72		
Victoria Mews	30		
Spencers Road	58		
Alpha Road	42		
Prospect Place	13		
Church Street	6		
Albany Road	50		
Princess Road	39		
Leopold Road	39		
Westfield Road	47		
Garden Walk	20		
Cotswold Close	21		
Westfield Road	47		
Houses on southern side of Ifield Road – 36, 38, Crawley Foyer, 60-120 (even numbers only) and Wimbourne House	63		
Horsham Road in LO	54		
Sub-total	729		868

In regards to the alternative proposal for the Pound Hill and Maidenbower divisions, these are the roads which would be transferred from the current Pound Hill division to the Maidenbower division. We believe that our proposal is more suitable than the council's proposed version, which is too elaborate and fails to use the Worth Way as the obvious natural community barrier in this neighbourhood. These are the 2015 figures, but I include the projected effect on 2021 figures in the attached spreadsheet.

Stone Court	191
Fitzalen Place	16
Allyington Way	41
Bethune Close	23
Burdett Close	19
Weller close	35
Fontana Close	38
Saxon Road	93
Edgar Close	22
Osmund Close	22
Athelstan Close	35
Harold Road	31
Alfred Close	26
Maddox Drive	36
Old Orchards	21
Houses on east side of Balcombe Road	34
Church Road	117
Grand total	810

Many thanks in anticipation of your detailed consideration of the proposals in this letter and attached spreadsheet. I sincerely believe the radical and, to our minds, somewhat unsuitable proposals outlined in the county council's submission would risk considerable community opposition in Crawley, if they were to be adopted as the scheme when details are circulated to the residents when the Commission initially consults in the near future, and I hope that you will be able to consider our strong concerns as a Group, as a result.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or follow up questions based on the information that I have provided.

With my best wishes,

Michael Jones

Councillor Michael Jones

Southgate and Crawley Central

Enc/attached – Proposed scheme for Crawley, setting out figures for 2015 and 2021 for an alternative scheme

Polling District	Division	2021 Electorate									
			Bewbush & Ifield W	Broadfield	Gossops Green & Ifield E	Langley Green & W Green	Maidenbower	Northgate & 3 Bridges	Pound Hill & Worth	Southgate & Crawley Central	Tilgate & Furnace Green
9	CRAWLEY										
county ratio	9619	85674	9077	9469	8747	9209	10302	9742	10380	9444	9294
district ratio	9518	85664	-5.6%	-1.6%	-9.1%	-4.3%	8.7%	1.3%	9.5%	-1.8%	-3.4%
% variance with 70 cllrs	9481		-4.3%	-0.1%	-7.7%	-2.9%	8.7%	2.8%	9.5%	-0.4%	-2.0%
LA - Bewbush (La)	Bewbush & Ifield W	6658	6658								
LFC - Ifield West (Lfc)	Bewbush & Ifield W	2419	2419								
LBA - Broadfield	Broadfield	3280		3280							
LBB - Broadfield	Broadfield	1547		1547							
LCA - Broadfield	Broadfield	1819		1819							
LCB - Broadfield	Broadfield	2823		2823							
LE - Gossops Green (Le)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	4135			4135						
LFA - Ifield East (Lfa)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	3183			3183						
LFB - Ifield East (Lfb)	Gossops Green & Ifield E	1429			1429						
LG - Langley Green (Lg)	Langley Green & W Green	5851				5851					
LO - West Green (Lo)	Langley Green & W Green	4236				3358				868	
LHA - Maidenbower	Maidenbower	2801					2801				
LHB - Maidenbower	Maidenbower	3822					3822				
LKA - Pound Hill South and	Maidenbower	2853					2853				
LIA - Northgate	Northgate & 3 Bridges	4450						4450			
LMA - Three Bridges North	Northgate & 3 Bridges	3236						3236			
LMB - Three Bridges West	Northgate & 3 Bridges	2056						2056			
LJA - Pound Hill North	Pound Hill & Worth	2995							2995		
LJB - Pound Hill North	Pound Hill & Worth	4670							4670		
LKB - Pound Hill South and	Pound Hill & Worth	3541					826		2715		
LIB - Northgate	Southgate & Crawley Central	802								802	
LLA - Southgate	Southgate & Crawley Central	3120								3120	
LLB - Southgate	Southgate & Crawley Central	3551								3551	
LMC - Three Bridges (Lmc)	Southgate & Crawley Central	1103								1103	
LD - Furnace Green (Ld)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	4657									4657
LNA - Tilgate East (Lna)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2251									2251
LNB - Tilgate West (Lnb)	Tilgate & Furnace Green	2386									2386