

Shepway District Council

Council submission on proposed ward patterns
for Further Electoral Review of Shepway to the
Local Government Boundary Commission for
England

Draft for council meeting 28 March 2013

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2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Shepway District Council is required to undergo a Further Electoral Review of the number of councillors and ward boundaries because the Council has reached at least one of the trigger points for starting a review as set out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Furthermore, in anticipation of a review being triggered, the Council sought to proactively debate the effect of any such review and submit a request to the LGBCE for such a review.
- 2.2 This submission sets out Shepway District Council's response to the invitation from the LGBCE to put forward revised warding arrangements based on the draft recommendation of 30 Councillors following the first consultation phase by the LGBCE.
- 2.3 LGBCE is responsible for, amongst other things, reviewing the electoral arrangements of local authorities; the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and the number of councillors to be elected to each.
- 2.4 The last full local government electoral review of Shepway, conducted by the LGBCE, took place in 2000 and was published on 8 May 2001. This formed part of a periodic electoral review cycle for Kent which occurred approximately every ten years.
- 2.5 The 2001 full electoral review, which covered the whole of Kent, recommended that the number of wards was reduced from 25 to 22 and the number of councillors was reduced from 56 to 46. In addition new boundaries were created and new parish wards and changes to the number of councillors were also introduced for some parish councils such as Lympne.
- 2.6 In 2004, the rules were amended and the periodic electoral review was abolished. However new criteria were introduced for requiring a full electoral review in circumstances where:

- More than 30% of a council's wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio (in Shepway 30% is 7 wards) and/or
- One or more wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 30% and
- The imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate with a reasonable period.

2.7 On 1 December 2011, the Electoral Registration Officer for Shepway, Alistair Stewart, published the revised register of electors following the annual canvass of electors. A Further Electoral Review would have been triggered in Shepway as one ward had an electoral imbalance of 30% and more than 7 wards had an imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio but would take place at an unknown date in the future.

2.8 The Council considered a report from the Leader on 23 November 2011 which sought to pre-empt the work of the LGBCE and to look in more detail at the consequences of such a review. This included establishing an Electoral Review Working Group to look at the optimum number of councillors for Shepway and to assess how local government in Shepway could be made more effective and convenient.

2.9 The Electoral Review Working Group reported their findings to General Purposes Committee on 21 February 2012 and to Council on 21 March 2012.

2.10 Council agreed to support the submission of a proposal to the LGBCE incorporating proposed new arrangements which demonstrate how the Council would operate with 38 members that is predominately two member wards with the flexibility to have single member wards where necessary according to the current electorate size, future electorate projections and geographic considerations. A full submission was then made to the LGBCE requesting a Further Electoral Review for Shepway.

- 2.11 The LGBCE confirmed in late March 2011 that they were minded to timetable a Further Electoral Review of Shepway to commence in late 2012. This was then confirmed and the first formal preliminary meeting was held with the Chief Executive and officers on 22 May 2012.
- 2.12 On 11 July 2012, the LGBCE Chair and Commissioners Max Caller CBE and Sir Tony Redmond, accompanied by LGBCE officers, attended meetings with the Leader and the Opposition Leader to discuss the LGBCE approach to the review. A presentation was then given at the Council meeting that evening to outline the timetable and approach to the review.
- 2.13 As part of the preliminary council size consultation, a submission was made by Shepway District Council incorporating the work of the Electoral Review Working Group, the report and decision of Council and a supplementary report supporting Council recommendation for 38 members.
- 2.14 On 23 October 2012, the LGBCE formally started an electoral review of Shepway and invited proposals for the number of councillors who should represent Shepway District Council. The Commission considered in principle that 30 members was appropriate for Shepway District Council and sought views on this with a closing date of 3 December 2012.
- 2.15 On 29 January the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive announcing the commencement of the next stage of the review and a public consultation on proposals for a new pattern of wards for Shepway to include the district and individual parish councils. They indicated in their letter that they were not persuaded to change their original proposal for 30 members for Shepway District Council and that they had received some support for the reduction. Any proposed new warding patterns for Shepway District Council should therefore be based on a council size of 30 councillors.
- 2.16 The public consultation stage of the review on warding patterns will close on Monday 8 April 2013 and the LGBCE is aiming to recommend a pattern of wards that achieves good electoral equality, reflects community identities and interests and

provides for effective and convenient local government. It also seeks to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

2.17 Although the Council's submission was for a council size of 38, however this submission on proposed warding patterns is therefore made based on the LGBCE's decision for Shepway District Council to be represented by 30 Councillors.

3 The Aim of the Review

3.1 The aim of the Further Electoral Review, which is based on statutory criteria, is to provide for good, or improved, levels of electoral representation across the district. This means ensuring that, as nearly as possible, each councillor within a specific local authority ward represents the same number of electors as his or her colleagues. In addition where parishes require warding arrangements the same criteria is applied.

3.2 This aim is balanced with the need to reflect community identity and provide for convenient and effective local government.

3.3 The rules for consideration within the review, as set out in Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, are:

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – The LGBCE advises that this means ensuring that each local authority councillor represents roughly the same number of people so that the value of a vote is the same regardless of where an elector lives in the local authority area.
- Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – The LGBCE advises that this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- Promoting effective and convenient local government – The LGBCE advises that this means ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their

elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

- 3.1 Delivering electoral equality is the only criterion which can be measured with precision and therefore is fundamental in the proposals for new warding patterns. The LGBCE does recognise that perfect electoral equality is unlikely to be exactly achieved; any variations will require evidence to justify it based on the other statutory criteria outlined in sections 5 and 6. The greater the variance the more persuasive the evidence will need to be and a full explanation as to why any such proposal reflects the interests and identities of local communities and/or how the arrangement would provide for effective and convenient local government.

4 Electoral Equality

- 4.1 One of the key aspects of any local government boundary review is to deliver electoral equality for local voters by ensuring that each councillor represents approximately the same number of people. This ensures that the value of the vote is the same regardless of where they might live in the district.
- 4.2 This submission has sought to achieve the identified optimum figure wherever possible and not to have any variances greater than 6.90% for district or parish councillors.
- 4.3 The Council has supplied the LGBCE with electorate forecasts based on extensive analysis on existing planning applications, population forecasts and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAA). Units of four or more households were included within the forecasts along with a realistic approach to what would actually be built and occupied by December 2018 as opposed to what the planning proposals actually were.
- 4.4 The Council has confidence in the forecasts supplied as the current electorate is based on a high electoral canvass response of over 95% which is above the national average and which the Electoral Registration Officer now believes has captured the maximum number of households and local government electors possible.

Figure 1: Electorate and Property Numbers

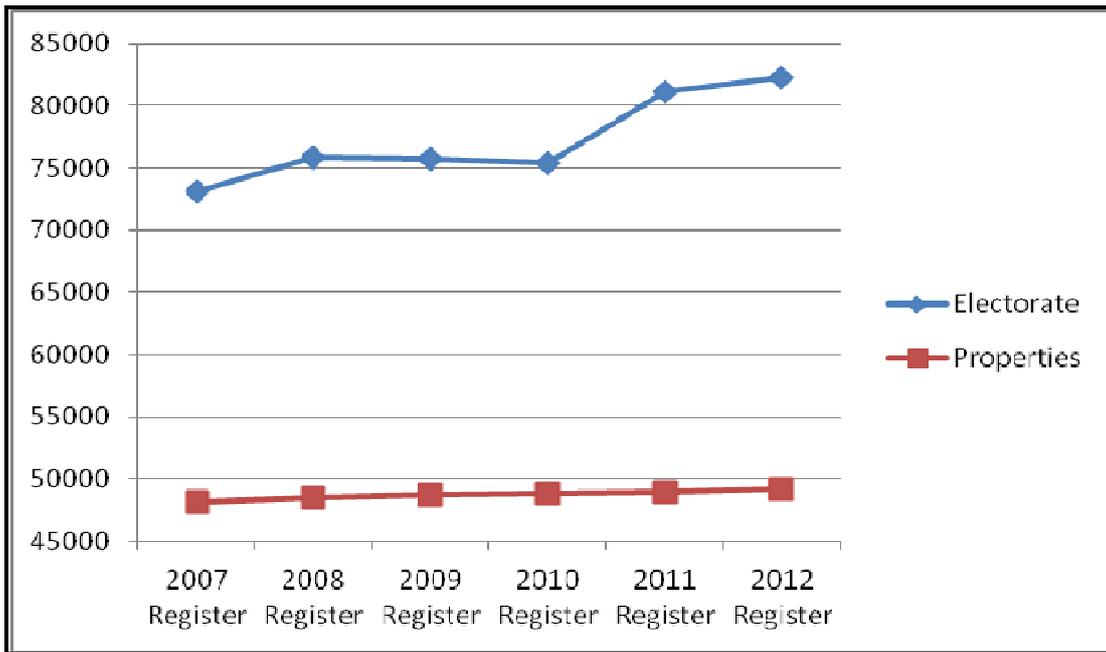
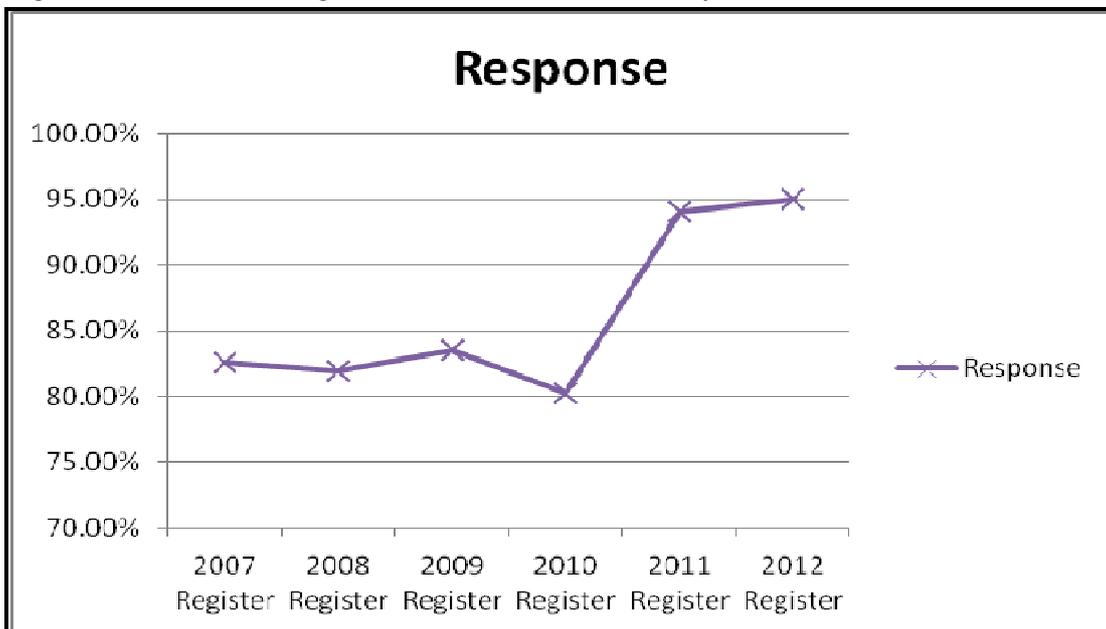


Figure 2: Electoral Register Annual Canvass Response



4.4 Based on this methodology, the estimated electorate based on existing Polling Districts, Wards and Parishes is set out below.

Polling District	Parish Council	Parish Ward (if applicable)	Ward	Existing Electorate	December 2018 Projected Electorate
DSB1	Dymchurch		Dymchurch and St Marys Bay	2,545	2,545
DSB2	Dymchurch		Dymchurch and St Marys Bay	557	557
DSB3	St Mary in the Marsh	St Mary's Bay	Dymchurch and St Marys Bay	2,214	2,375
ESM1	Elham		Elham and Stelling Minnis	1,291	1,291
ESM2	Stelling Minnis		Elham and Stelling Minnis	505	505
FCH1	Folkestone	Folkestone Cheriton	Folkestone Cheriton	2,947	3,105
FCH2	Folkestone	Folkestone Cheriton	Folkestone Cheriton	2,156	2,156
FE1	Folkestone	Folkestone East	Folkestone East	1,939	2,097
FE2	Folkestone	Folkestone East	Folkestone East	1,593	1,593
FF1	Folkestone	Folkestone Foord	Folkestone Foord	1,658	1,684
FF2	Folkestone	Folkestone Foord	Folkestone Foord	1,718	1,767
FF3	Folkestone	Folkestone Foord	Folkestone Foord	677	840
FH1	Folkestone	Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone Harbour	1,031	1,053
FH2	Folkestone	Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone Harbour	1,452	1,497
FH3	Folkestone	Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone Harbour	1,732	1,732
FHC1	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey Central	Folkestone Harvey Central	1,594	1,619
FHC2	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey Central	Folkestone Harvey Central	2,234	2,432
FHC3	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey Central	Folkestone Harvey Central	1,018	1,154
FHC4	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey Central	Folkestone Harvey Central	257	603
FHW1	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey West	Folkestone Harvey West	2,153	2,153

FHW2	Folkestone	Folkestone Harvey West	Folkestone Harvey West	1,544	1,968
FM1	Folkestone	Folkestone Morehall	Folkestone Morehall	2,798	2,857
FM2	Folkestone	Folkestone Morehall	Folkestone Morehall	554	572
FP1	Folkestone	Folkestone Park	Folkestone Park	1,355	1,595
FP2	Folkestone	Folkestone Park	Folkestone Park	773	773
FP3	Folkestone	Folkestone Park	Folkestone Park	1,075	1,085
FP4	Folkestone	Folkestone Park	Folkestone Park	1,054	1,054
FP5	Folkestone	Folkestone Park	Folkestone Park	741	886
FS1	Sandgate	Sandgate Valley	Folkestone Sandgate	959	1,081
FS2	Sandgate	Sandgate Village	Folkestone Sandgate	2,005	2,800
FS3	Sandgate	Sandgate Village	Folkestone Sandgate	500	521
HC1	Hythe	Hythe North	Hythe Central	2,597	2,632
HC2	Hythe	Hythe South	Hythe Central	2,359	2,467
HE1	Hythe	Hythe East	Hythe East	1,857	2,036
HE2	Hythe	Hythe East	Hythe East	1,593	1,713
HW1	Hythe	Hythe West	Hythe West	2,091	2,620
HW2	Hythe	Hythe West	Hythe West	1,421	1,421
LD1	Lydd		Lydd	2,665	2,864
LD2	Lydd		Lydd	1,172	1,172
LD3	Lydd		Lydd	943	943
LS1	Lympne		Lympne and Stanford	1,234	1,461
LS2	Stanford		Lympne and Stanford	310	631

LS3	Sellindge		Lympne and Stanford	36	36
NRC1	New Romney	New Romney Coast	New Romney Coast	2,895	2,978
NRT1	New Romney	New Romney Town	New Romney Town	2,785	3,173
NDE1	Hawkinge		North Downs East	3,264	3,443
NDE2	Hawkinge		North Downs East	2,426	2,864
NDE3	Paddlesworth		North Downs East	28	28
NDE4	Swingfield		North Downs East	803	803
NDE5	Swingfield		North Downs East	224	224
NDE6	Acrise		North Downs East	124	124
NDE7	Acrise		North Downs East	27	27
NDW1	Lyminge	Lyminge	North Downs West	1,760	1,775
NDW2	Elmsted		North Downs West	135	135
NDW3	Elmsted		North Downs West	112	112
NDW4	Sellindge		North Downs West	1,274	1,496
NDW5	Monks Horton		North Downs West	95	95
NDW6	Stowting		North Downs West	188	188
RM1	Burmarsh		Romney Marsh	251	251
RM2	Brenzett		Romney Marsh	281	302
RM3	Snargate		Romney Marsh	103	103
RM4	Brookland		Romney Marsh	367	395
RM5	Ivychurch		Romney Marsh	214	214
RM6	Newchurch		Romney Marsh	268	268

RM7	Old Romney		Romney Marsh	175	175
RM8	St Mary in the Marsh	St Mary in the Marsh	Romney Marsh	175	280
TF1	Saltwood		Tolsford	670	670
TF2	Newington		Tolsford	304	304
TF3	Postling		Tolsford	173	173
TF4	Lyminge	Etchinghill	Tolsford	486	497

5. Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities

5.1 It is important that wards and boundaries proposed reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of the area's communities. Although, unlike electoral equality, it is not possible to definitively measure levels of community identity, evidence where possible should indicate where a particular community exists. The LG BCE guidance does raise some issues which might be used to assess community interests and identity. These are:

- a. Transport links – is there a form of public transport within the proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport? How easily can one travel between two different communities?
- b. Community groups – are there particular groups or local organisations that solely represent the area concerned? Could there be joint activities?
- c. Facilities – where do local people go for shopping or leisure? Are the public facilities a centre or focal point for the community?
- d. Identifiable boundaries – Are there natural features such as rivers or valleys? Are there constructions such as major roads or railways that form well known barriers between communities?
- e. Parishes – parish boundaries often represent the extent of any community. Can the parish area be used as a building block for a district ward?

- f. Shared interests – urban, rural or suburban characteristics or local economic factors

6 Promoting effective and convenient local government and reflecting electoral cycles

- 6.1 There is a need to secure effective and convenient local government and ensure ward patterns reflect the electoral cycle. As the district and parish elections are held on an all out basis every four years, there is not any immediate consideration required as to the latter criterion other than the LGBCE is required to usually see a mixture of single, two and three member wards.
- 6.2 Ward names are often important to local people. In considering the most appropriate names these should be those that reflect communities and avoid confusion wherever possible. Finally consistency in the way wards have been named across the district should also be applied.

7 Shepway District Council Proposal

- 7.1 This submission for new warding patterns seeks to achieve the identified optimum figure for electoral equality wherever possible, to reflect the interests and identities of local communities and to promote effective and convenient local government.
- 7.2 In Shepway the projected electorate for December 2018 is 89,043. Based on the initial consultation on Council size, the LGBCE recommended 30 councillors. This means each councillor should represent approximately 2,968 electors.

$$\frac{89,043 \text{ electorate}}{30 \text{ councillors}}$$

$$= 2,968 \text{ electors}$$

- 7.3 The proposed warding pattern seeks to identify a mixed warding pattern of single member wards, two member wards and three member wards based on all of the statutory criteria.

7.4 This section will demonstrate the Council's proposed warding patterns for Shepway District Council and how each ward proposal meets the statutory criteria. The average variance from the optimum level is -1.02% which is due to other statutory criteria being taken into account for each individual ward proposal and this is addressed under each ward heading. The Shepway District Council proposed ward patterns are shown below in figure 3 and attached as a map at appendix 1.

7.5 *Figure 3 – Proposed New Ward Patterns for Shepway District Council*

Proposed ward	Electorate	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
North Downs East	9,108	3	2.29%
North Downs West	5,643	2	-4.94%
East Cliff	2,920	1	-1.62%
Folkestone Town and Harbour	5,708	2	-3.84%
Folkestone Central	5,909	2	-0.46%
Foord	2,829	1	-4.69%
Folkestone North	5,615	2	-5.41%
Broadmead Village	3,004	1	1.21%
Cheriton	5,962	2	0.43%
Folkestone West	5,644	2	-4.92%
Sandgate	3,086	1	3.97%
Hythe	8,848	3	-0.63%
Lemanis	6,172	2	3.97%
New Romney Town	3,173	1	6.90%
New Romney Coast	2,978	1	0.33%
Walland and Denge Marsh	6,168	2	3.90%
Romney Marsh East	6,276	2	5.72%
Total Electorate	89,043	30	-1.02%

7.6 North Downs East

North Downs East is situated within the North Downs, a ridge of chalk hills which run from Farnham in Surrey to the white cliffs at Dover. The majority of the new ward of North Downs East incorporates the existing district ward of the same name. The new ward incorporates the Elham parish area and the village of Elham and the Newington parish area including Peene.

Elham is currently part of the existing Elham and Stelling Minnis ward but is very much a separate community. Elham Village hall hosts a variety of busy clubs and societies such as Mother & Baby Group, Yoga, Short Mat Bowls, Dog Training, Adult Education Classes and Elham Pre-School are based at the hall and there is a very active Sports Club which runs many activities. The Elham parish border adjoins the Acrise parish border to the east and the western boundary splits the northern part of Shepway around the middle point of the area covering the North Downs. It is therefore a natural geographical fit that Elham becomes part of the new North Downs East ward proposal.

In the south eastern area of the new North Downs East ward is the parish of Newington which borders Acrise parish and Paddlesworth parish. One of the key visitor attractions in Peene, within Newington parish, is the Elham Valley Line Trust Countryside Centre created in the 1980s, to capture the history of the Elham Valley Railway Line which ran through the picturesque Elham Valley between Canterbury and Folkestone, from 1884 to 1947. Access to the centre from the north is via Hawkinge, the biggest urban conurbation centre within the North Downs East ward.

North Downs East contains the communities of:

Elham	1,291
Swingfield	911
Acrise	267
Paddlesworth	28
Newington	304
Hawkinge	6,307

Total of 9,108 electors with 3 district councillors and a variance of 2.29% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.7 North Downs West

North Downs West ward incorporates much of the existing North Downs West ward with the addition of the parishes of Sellindge, Stanford Stelling Minnis and Postling. All of these additional parishes are very rural in nature and naturally form part of the north western part of the North Down within the district of Shepway with the majority of the area to the north of the M20.

North Downs West contains the communities of:

Elmsted 247

Lyminge (including Etchinghill) 2,272

Monks Horton 95

Postling 173

Sellindge 1,532

Stanford 631

Stelling Minnis 505

Stowting 188

The North Downs West ward has a projected electorate of 5,643 with 2 district councillors and a variance of -4.94% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.8 East Cliff

The East Cliff ward is a newly formed ward of the eastern part of the existing Folkestone East ward and the east part of the existing Folkestone Harbour Ward. The east cliff area was previously separated by the railway line, albeit unseen as it ran through a tunnel where the areas are joined north and south via Wear Bay Road.

The area is known locally for the East Cliff and Warren Country Park which features beautiful walks along the cliffs looking out over the English Channel and also has camping and caravan facilities at Little Switzerland camping

area and the Folkestone Caravanning and Camping Club site at the Warren both of which are accessed via Wear Bay Road. The area is approached from the west via the B2011 which then follows a route of the Dover Road right down to the harbour. The new ward is split in Folkestone by the old railway line which used to regularly run trains to Folkestone Harbour when the area was a thriving port.

Bus number 72 runs though the western side of the residential part of the ward covering Hollands Avenue, Stanbury Crescent and Wear Bay Road, along Foreland Avenue and into Wear Bay Crescent to Tram Road. Bus numbers 101 and 102 go from Folkestone Town centre along Dover Road north to south on the eastern side of the ward before going along Dover Hill at the north of the ward. This new ward is therefore a natural community of two areas, the north of the east cliff and the southern end of the east cliff down to the harbour area.

The East Cliff ward has a projected electorate of 2,920 and is a single member ward with a variance of -1.62% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.9 Folkestone Town and Harbour

Folkestone Town ward contains Folkestone Town shopping centre and bus station, the Creative Quarter, the harbour area and the immediate community surrounding all of these areas. It also contains the Folkestone Town Council Town Hall building and Folkestone's only cinema. The ward is bordered by the railway line to the north and the coast to the south.

The harbour was created in 1907 following an Act of Parliament to create a harbour with a pier and this was subsequently designed by Thomas Telford. In 1843, the South Eastern Railway company extended the line from London to Folkestone Harbour station, originally called 'Folkestone.' This led to Folkestone becoming the main entry/exit point for all goods transported to the Europe via rail. As freight ceased to be primarily transported by rail, trade began to be moved more to the road ports at Dover and Ramsgate. The last ferry link closed down in 2000 and the harbour and seafront area

has been subject to negotiations for redevelopment. Folkestone Harbour Company recently commissioned architects Sir Terry Farrell and Partners to look at developing plans for the area.

The ward features an historical landmark with the Road of Remembrance. This road carried millions of soldiers who marched through Folkestone Town and down to the waiting boats on the harbour on their way to the Western Front to fight in World War I between 1914 and 1918. It is now being proposed that a giant memorial Arch be created at the top of the hill to remember those who left Britain, many of whom did not return and therefore this was their final leaving point from the country.

Given the historical context of the harbour and the central commercial activity of the town, the new ward is proposed to be Folkestone Town and Harbour ward.

The Folkestone Town and Harbour ward has a projected electorate of 5,708 with 2 district councillors and a variance of -3.84% from the optimum electoral figure with scope for further development to occur on the seafront after 2020.

7.10 Central Folkestone

The new ward of central Folkestone has the railway station in the north of the ward, Shepway District Council Civic Centre, the Courts, police station and the Lower Leas Coastal Park, K College, Kingsnorth Gardens and Christchurch Gardens as key features. Many of the dwellings in the ward are of houses converted into flats and there is quite a transient community with a high number of rental properties. The ward does however have some active communities such as the Bradstone Road Community made up of all of the streets to the south of the viaduct around the area.

The Folkestone Central ward has a projected electorate of 5,909 with 2 district councillors and a variance of -0.46% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.11 Foord

The new Foord ward enables the retention of the majority of the existing district ward of the same name. One of the amazing sights within the ward is the railway Foord Viaduct designed by the architect, Sir William Cubitt crossing what was the Foord Valley historically created by the Pent Stream entering the English Channel.

The area, although geographically small is densely populated with a community based around the Black Bull Road and Foord Road South. Radnor Park Road separates the ward to the east and the railway line, Broadmead Road and the old gas works are the border to the south. To the north Mundella school grounds form the border and to the west Canterbury Road forms a definitive boundary.

The Foord ward has a projected electorate of 2,829 and is a single member ward with a variance of -4.69% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.12 Folkestone North

The Folkestone North ward is made up of three distinct communities. In the north there is the Folkestone parish boundary and the enclosed community north of the A260. This community features a large area of social housing supported by bus route 127 up to Holywell Avenue and Pilgrim Spring. The north eastern part of the ward with roads such as George Gurr Crescent is supported by bus routes 16 and 16A up to Canterbury Road and route 71 which cuts through the ward along Canterbury Road, Hill Road, Dover Road and Joyes Road.

The southern part of the ward is split down Canterbury Road with a large number of home owners on the west side with a natural boundary between Downs Road and Park Farm Road for which there is no vehicular access. On the eastern side there is a mix of home owners and rental properties and Castleview Community School. The area also features Wood Avenue

Library and the large church of St Saviours. The western boundary is along Dover Road (A260), a main road out of central Folkestone.

Folkestone North contains the communities of:

North of Joyes/Hill Road: 2,097

West of Canterbury Road 1,684

East of Canterbury Road 1,429

Total of 5,615 electors with 2 district councillors and a variance of -5.41% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.13 Broadmead Village

Broadmead Village is an area often referred to by estate agents and the local residents who consider it to be a distinct community. During the 1960s and 1970s significant development took place in Lynwood and the streets leading off Coniston Road. This was further expanded during the 1980s. Broadmead village has a village green, pub and shop and the Grace Taylor community hall is situated at the heart of the new ward on Lucy Avenue. Many local children go to the three schools within the ward, the Harvey Grammar School, the Folkestone Senior Academy (accessed via Lucy Avenue and Kingsmead), the Primary Academy (accessed via Park Farm Road) and Stella Maris Catholic Primary School on Parkfield Road.

The area also features the Folkestone Sports Centre featuring a nine hole golf course, ski and toboggan slopes along the Pent Stream and the well utilised municipal sports fields on Cornwallis Avenue affectionately known by locals as the Polo Ground. Broadmead Village was named after the manor of Bredmer but was usually known as Broadmead and was established in the reign of Edward II in the late 13th century. A court baron remains for this manor.

The proposed ward is totally enclosed on two sides by key A roads, Cherry Garden Avenue (A20) and Churchill Avenue (A259) all of which offer few opportunities for crossing and are extremely dangerous and busy roads. On the east side there is Park Farm Road which runs through an industrial

estate and retail park with no residential housing along the whole route except at the very southern point at Downside and Moat Farm Road. To the south is Cheriton Road (A2034) but given that the main southern boundary is the railway line a handful of properties along Cheriton Road and Beachborough Road have been included in the ward.

Bus route 127 passes through the heart of the new ward from Folkestone Town Centre to Broadmead Village. The route includes Radnor Park Road, Alder Road, Lynwood, Coniston Road, William Avenue and around the whole of Lucy Avenue before returning to the town centre. At the south of the ward, bus routes 17, 71,72, 73 and 160 all pass along Cheriton Road past Cornwallis Avenue but not actually going any further into the than along the boundary.

The nature of the geography of the ward, the size of the electorate in the area and the history make this an ideal scenario for a single member ward called Broadmead Village.

The Broadmead Village ward has a projected electorate of 3,004 and is a single member ward with a variance of 1.21% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.14 Cheriton

Cheriton ward encompasses the two major areas of the current Cheriton ward and Morehall ward on the northern side of Cheriton Road.

The historical area of Cheriton, which included the Shorncliffe area to the north of the Cheriton Road, was originally a civil parish in its own right, and part of Elham Rural District from 1894 to 1898, when it became a separate urban district. The area continued to grow with the large army barracks being nearby and it gradually became indistinguishable from Folkestone. The parish was abolished in 1934 under a County Review Order, and divided between Folkestone and Hythe. Although historically Cheriton was a far larger area taking in parts of the area which is now referred to as Hythe,

Sandgate and Folkestone West, the area is still popularly known as Cheriton today despite being part of the governance arrangements of Folkestone Town Council and Shepway District Council.

The new ward of Cheriton contains one of the key area landmarks, the Folkestone White Horse, which is carved into Cheriton Hill and overlooks the area. In the northern part of the ward the Channel Tunnel Terminal and the M20 pass through the area and would normally make a perfect geographical boundary however the Folkestone parish boundary, formerly the Cheriton parish boundary, passes further north of the M20 and contains only three electors and therefore for administrative purposes the area extends up to Peene and Crete Road West and along to junction 13. On the eastern side the border runs along Cherry Garden Avenue (A20) and to the north along the railway line with just three roads offering southerly access out of the ward.

Community features of the ward are the Morehall primary school, the first preference for many young children south of Cheriton Road, Harcourt Primary School and the Pent Valley Technology College. All Souls Church is within the new ward and was the second parish church of Cheriton. Originally created to cater for the Victorian development and westward enlargement of Folkestone in the 1880s, it now primarily serves the community to the south of the Cheriton Road with the original parish church at Horn Street serving the north of the old Cheriton parish.

The Cheriton ward has a projected electorate of 5,962 with 2 district councillors and a variance of 0.43% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.15 Folkestone West

Folkestone West ward runs from the most westerly boundary of Folkestone parish south of the railway line and extends to the east to where central Folkestone begins just past Godwyn Road and Dixwell Road.

This area has seen significant changes through the years with the western part of Folkestone extending to the Shorncliffe area of Cheriton during the Victorian period. The area takes in the southern part of Cheriton centred around the Risborough Barracks which is provisionally set for development in the 2020s and does not form part of the electorate growth forecasts. It also includes the northern part of Sandgate parish including Sandgate Primary School which is oversubscribed from outside the area and the well known Folkestone School for Girls, originally created in 1905 as the Folkestone County School for Girls and a selective school for pupils who pass the Kent test. Both schools are on Coolinge Lane. In the eastern part of the ward are St Martin's Church Primary School on Horn Street and Cheriton Primary School on Church Road and both schools tend to have a pupil intake from south of Cheriton Road.

The ward has Folkestone's other railway station, Folkestone West and residents in the ward will gravitate towards using this station as opposed to Folkestone Central even though there is very little distance between the two stations. Bus routes 77 and 78 are effectively the Folkestone West bus routes solely going through the ward along Shorncliffe Road, Audley Road, Romney Avenue, Fremantle Road, Oxenden Road, up Military Road and finishing at Royal Military Road and thus focus on this particular single community.

In the western area of the ward and northern part of Cheriton, many of the residents are of Nepalese descent due to the Ghurka Rifles based at the nearby barracks and a large amount of Ministry of Defence housing. As a consequence, many local businesses in this area are Nepalese owned to cater for the local community.

The Folkestone West ward has a projected electorate of 5,644 and is a two member ward with a variance of -4.92% from the optimum electoral figure although it is expected that future development will occur at the Risborough Barracks site sometime after 2020.

7.16 Sandgate

Sandgate ward is made up of the Seabrook area of Sandgate parish, the Sandgate village area up to the border with Folkestone parish and the new development of Enbrook Valley to the north. Sandgate parish was created in 2004 and comprises 4,402 electors thus denying it the possibility of solely having a district ward area. The parish is separated by three distinct areas with Coolinge in the north developed in the 1930s, Enbrook Valley which was developed in the 1960s and the traditional Sandgate coastal village community. The separation of the Coolinge community, given its size, shape and geographical location into Folkestone West enables the remaining Sandgate communities to be harmonised into a single member ward.

The Sandgate ward has a projected electorate of 3,086 and is a single member ward with a variance of 3.97% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.17 Hythe

Hythe is a coastal community based near Romney Marsh which once possessed a busy harbour and was an important Cinque Port originally formed for military and commercial purposes and one of the first five created. The harbour diminished over the past few hundred years due to silting and now no longer exists.

The ward extends east to the Seabrook border with Sandgate and follows the external parish borders of Newington and Lympne. To the west the border is London Road (A261), across Scanlon's Bridge and on past the green to the coast. The centre of the ward features the Hythe Town hall, a former Guildhall which now serves as the meeting place for Hythe Town Council and was built in 1794.

Bus route 16 passes through the ward along Seabrook Road, Prospect Road, Dymchurch Road finishing its route at Brockhill Road. Bus route 18 does a circular route through Hythe town centre before going up Tanners Hill and along Hillcrest Road, Tanners Hill and Hillcrest Road.

The ward contains the Royal Military Canal, a popular visitor attraction and Hythe Pool, a municipal swimming pool serving the local area used by many local organisations.

The Hythe ward has a projected electorate of 8,848 with electors with district councillors and a variance of -0.63% from the optimum electoral figure and therefore does allow scope for the continuing development of areas such as Princes Parade in the future.

7.18 Lemanis

The ward of Lemanis contains the parish areas of Lympe and Saltwood and the Palmarsh area of Hythe parish and home to three communities.

The name for the new ward comes from the ancient roman settlement and port 'Portas lemanis' from which Lympe derived its name and was first documented in the late 3rd century and which directly linked the area to Canterbury via a road which today is Stone Street. The area was later defended by two castles, both of which are within the ward, at Saltwood and Lympe. These places have a significant historical interest and demonstrate how the communities have evolved around them. Saltwood Castle was built in around 488 and Lympe Castle was built in the 13th century on the site of the original Roman lookout towers over what was once the harbour. Both properties are grade one listed buildings of architectural or historical interest and remain in use today.

Saltwood is a thriving community with two primary schools, Saltwood CE Primary School and St Augustine's RC Primary School and a secondary school, Brockhill Park Performing Arts College. The ward also contains Sandling mainline railway station, a key commuter station to Ashford and London.

Lympne is a distinct community with a village shop, a hairdresser, village pub and local village sports teams and is home to a regional tourist attraction, the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Palmarsh is a small coastal community separated from the main part of Hythe by the bridge over the Royal Military Canal and the Hythe Ranges which were opened in 1854. The area is in constant use by the armed forces as a training facility and the sound of guns firing is a regular feature of the area. A busy tourist attraction within the ward is the start of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch steam railway at Scanlons Bridge Road which was opened in 1927 and is the smallest public railway in the world. The ward then extends west towards parish boundary borders of Burmarsh and Dymchurch parishes and becomes very rural in nature unlike the eastern border with the proposed Hythe district border. Bus route 160 goes from Hythe Town along the coast to Burmarsh Road and Grebe Crescent thus providing a vital public transport link for this community.

Bus route 10 and 10A links Saltwood and Lympne via public transport with start of the Palmarsh area.

Lemanis contains the communities of:

Palmarsh: 4,041

Saltwood: 670

Lympne: 1,461

Total of 6,172 electors with 2 district councillors and a variance of 3.97% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.19 New Romney Town

New Romney Town is a small town on the Romney Marsh that has been established for over 1,200 years and is part of the New Romney parish which is currently warded into two wards, New Romney Town and New Romney Coast. The main church was built in 1080 and the name of New Romney originally derived from the Anglo Saxon name 'Niwe Romm' meaning 'New Rams Island'. This is probably an indication of sheep having been farmed on

the marsh since Anglo Saxon times and the settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The town's borders are small and the electorate figure gives an ideal number for a single member ward.

The ward provides the headquarters for the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Steam Railway and has a popular shopping area with shops including a large Sainsbury's supermarket, restaurants and public houses. It also features the Marsh Academy, a secondary school serving pupils from the surrounding area and the A259 is the main thoroughfare in and out of the ward. Bus routes 11 and 11A connect New Romney Town with a direct route to Ashford and Route 101 goes through the town to Lydd and Folkestone. Route 102 goes from New Romney Town to Littlestone, Greatstone and Lydd on Sea.

New Romney Town has a projected electorate of 3,173 and is therefore a perfect size for a single member ward with a variance of 6.9% although this does include several new developments yet to be built such as those at Church Lane and on the High Street.

7.20 New Romney Coast

New Romney Coast ward is made up of the communities of Littlestone and Greatstone (part within New Romney parish). The place names of Greatstone and Littlestone came about in the 19th century as a result of the headland at that time which has since eroded. These two communities, joined by the coast, are very different from new Romney Town with an older age profile and many residences being used as second homes or places for retirement. The Littlestone Golf Club, with membership from across the Romney Marsh area is used for sports and recreational facilities and accounts for much of the ward once the residential area of Littlestone stops.

Only one bus route serves the area, that of route 102 which runs from Lydd to Folkestone.

New Romney Coast has a projected electorate of 2,978 and is therefore a perfect size for a single member ward with a variance of just 0.33%.

7.21 Romney Marsh East

This new ward is made up of five distinct communities, those of Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay, St Mary in the Marsh, Newchurch and Burmarsh.

Burmarsh, one of the most easterly communities on Romney Marsh has been established since the Anglo Saxon period. It's name is derived from 'Burnwargamarse' meaning 'fortress' and today has a public house and a church.

Newchurch has its name derived from the Anglo Saxon 'Niwe Circa' meaning 'new burial ground' and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Bus route 11A links Newchurch to New Romney Town and Ashford.

St Mary in the Marsh was originally called 'Siwold Circa' derived from the Celtic meaning 'burial ground'. It was probably renamed after the church was built in 1133 AD. The area is connected to Newchurch, Ashford and New Romney Town via bus route 11A and is expected to see some significant increase in the electorate with the development of the Romney Marsh Potato Farm at Cockreed Lane.

St Mary's Bay is a relatively new development in the area which was created as a seaside village to cater for the 1920s boom in seaside holidays. The area had its heyday in the 1960s and today contains a number of static caravan and holiday parks as well as a number of second homes alongside permanent residences.

Dymchurch gets its name from the Anglo Saxon place 'Deman Ciric' meaning 'Judges Burial ground' and was probably a place of execution at that time. The sea wall was originally built by the Romans and the settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Today it is a popular holiday destination along with an extension of the urban communities of Folkestone and Hythe. Bus routes 101 and 102 pass through the area.

Romney Marsh East contains the communities of:

Burmarsh: 251

Newchurch 268

St Mary in the Marsh 280

St Mary's Bay 2,375

Dymchurch 3,102

Total of 6,276 electors with 2 district councillors and a variance of 5.72% from the optimum electoral figure.

7.22 Walland and Denge Marsh

The whole Romney Marsh area consists of several flat low-lying areas across Sussex and Kent. The Walland Marsh is the area south of the line between New Romney and Appledore. The Denge Marsh is the area south east of Lydd up to and including Denge Beach and Dungeness. As this ward is a large geographical ward consisting of six parishes and seven communities, the name of Walland and Denge Marsh is proposed although it could also be referred to as Romney Marsh West within Shepway.

Snargate is a small parish community at the north west of the ward. The name is derived from 'Snare gate' which came about as a result of the 13th century sluice gates erected to control a waterway to Romney Harbour. Snargate has a public house, the Red Lion and a church and the B2080 passes through the community and Appledore mainline station is nearby.

Brookland parish community gets its name from the Anglo Saxon place of 'Broc Land' meaning 'Land of Illness'. The area suffered from extreme damp and outbreaks of malaria were common up until the 16th century. The A259 passes through the heart of the community and there is a 15th century public house, the Woolpack Inn.

Brenzett parish community gets the name from the Anglo Saxon place of 'Brenning Set' meaning 'Crematorium'. It is referred to in the Domesday book as 'Brensete' and the main church was built in 630 AD. It was also the rallying point for the Peasants Revolt in 1381.

Most recently Brenzett was the site of RAF Brenzett, an advance airfield used in World War II. The airfield is now closed but a local attraction is the Brenzett Aeronautical Museum Trust which houses and exhibits the remains of many fighter aircraft lost during the war and excavated from the surrounding nearby marsh. Brenzett has a primary school, public house, petrol station, cafe and a post office.

Ivychurch parish community get the name from the Anglo Saxon place 'Le Circa' meaning 'burial ground'. The parish is very large with a border going along the Kent ditch, the border between Sussex and Kent and extending eastwards along land that was steadily drained from the 12th century. Ivychurch has a church which is often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Marsh', an impressive building dating from the 14th century which now also houses the Museum of Rural Life. The local public house, the Bell Inn, is the centre of village life with many local groups and musicians utilising the excellent facilities.

Old Romney parish community was the original settlement and port in the area as it was at the mouth of the River Rother estuary and was established in Roman times. Old Romney has one of the oldest churches in Kent, St Clements, which was built in the 12th century although the site was originally used as early as the 8th century. The A259 passes through the area.

Lydd Town community has been an established community from early medieval times when the name was 'Hlyda', which was a Saxon word for 'shore'. It appears in a Saxon 8th century charter and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The area was extremely prosperous in the 13th century when it was a corporate member of the Cinque Ports and was a key area for smuggling throughout the 18th and 19th century.

Lydd Town houses All Saints Church, which is the longest parish church in Kent, Lydd Town Museum and has a hotel, a number of public houses and shops. The local Guildhall is a grade II listed building built in the 18th century

and the headquarters of Lydd Town Council. The town is well served by bus routes 101 and 102 offering regular services to Hythe, Folkestone, New Romney, Hastings and Rye. The London Ashford (Lydd) Airport is located in the east of the area and is subject to a planning application currently with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to expand the services, an application already approved by Shepway District Council. Currently the airport offers services to private planes, flying instructors and a commercial service to northern France.

Lydd coastal community is made up of residents of Dungeness, Lydd-on-Sea and Greatstone. It has a unique landscape which attracts visitors on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Steam railway which has Dungeness as a terminus. The area is also home to Dungeness Nuclear Power facility although this is scheduled to close sometime around 2018. As well as a power station there is also a nuclear waste store which will remain under supervision and contaminated until approximately 2130. The local area is also regarded as being of international conservation importance to plants and birdlife and has been designated as a national Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The parish councils within Walland and Denge Marsh ward already work closely together through the Romney Marsh parish Councils network, often making joint representations to Shepway District Council of the County Council.

Walland and Denge Marsh contains the communities of:

Snargate	103
Brookland	395
Brenzett	302
Ivychurch	214
Old Romney	175
Lydd Town	2,864
Lydd Coastal	2,115

Total of 6,168 electors with 2 district councillors and a variance of 3.9% from the optimum electoral figure.

8. Parish Councils

8.1 The current LGBCE Further Electoral Review of Shepway will also have an impact on the 29 parishes which currently exist in the district. Of the 29 parishes, 6 currently have warding arrangements which will need to be considered. In addition there are 2 parishes which will need to have warding patterns considered as a consequence of recent community governance reviews.

8.2 Six of the parishes are parish meetings and therefore do not have any councillors elected at the local level. The optimum electoral equality figures for the remaining 24 parishes with elections within Shepway are shown in Figure 4 at 8.3.

8.3 Figure 4 – Parish Councils, the number of councillors and the electorate.

Parish	Electorate	No. of Cllrs	Electoral Equality Figure per Councillor
Acrise	151	Parish Meeting	
Brenzett	302	5	60
Brookland	395	5	79
Burmarsh	251	5	50
Dymchurch	3,102	9	345
Elham	1,291	9	143
Elmsted	247	7	35
Folkestone	36,275	18	2,015
Hawkinge	6,307	9	701
Hythe	12,889	16	806
Ivychurch	214	5	43
Lydd	4,979	16	311
Lyminge	2,272	13	227
Lympne	1,461	7	209
Monks Horton	95	Parish Meeting	
New Romney	6,151	16	384
Newchurch	268	5	54

Newington	304	5	61
Old Romney	175	Parish Meeting	
Paddlesworth	28	Parish Meeting	
Postling	173	7	25
Saltwood	670	7	96
Sandgate	4,402	11	400
Sellindge	1,532	9	170
Snargate	103	Parish Meeting	
St Mary in the Marsh	2,655	7	379
Stanford	631	5	126
Stelling Minnis	505	7	72
Stowting	188	Parish Meeting	
Swingfield	1,027	9	114

8.4 Although primary consideration will need to be given to those parishes which already have or have requested warding arrangements, the review does offer the opportunity to explore whether any of the other no-warded parishes require warding arrangements to be proposed. Maps demonstrating the proposed warding arrangements for parishes are attached at Appendix 2.

8.5 At Council on 20 March 2012, the Community Governance Review of Hawkinge was completed and the recommendations approved by Council. Following this decision an amendment is required to the figures shown at Figure 4 in 8.3. This is as follows:

Parish	Electorate	No. of Cllrs	Electoral Equality Figure per Councillor
Acrise	267	Parish Meeting	
Swingfield	911	9	101
Hawkinge	6,307	13	485

8.6 Hawkinge Town Council

8.7 Following a recent Community Governance Review it is proposed that Hawkinge Town Council has a ward pattern of three wards covering Fernfield, Uphill and Churchill. This can be achieved by drawing a line down Canterbury Road and having Ward 1 (Fernfield) all roads to the East, Ward 2 (Uphill) the area between

Canterbury Road and Spitfire Way extending down White Horse Hill and along Alkham Valley Road, Ward 3 (Churchill all roads to the West of Spitfire Way). The breakdown for Hawkinge ward pattern based on December 2018 electorate figures is:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Fernfield	1,907	4	-1.73%
Uphill	1,536	3	5.53%
Churchill	2,864	6	-1.61%

8.9 Hythe Parish Council

The existing Hythe Town Council ward boundaries will remain unchanged as they do adequately represent the Hythe communities. Currently all four wards in Hythe elect 4 parish councillors, however due to projected electorate figures for December 2018, the number of councillors to be elected does require amending. Although the variance for Hythe North is high, the continual development of the other areas will gradually see this figure reduced further in future years. It is therefore proposed that Hythe Town Council adopts the following ward pattern:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Current Number of Councillors to be elected	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Hythe East	3,749	4	5	-6.92%
Hythe South	2,467	4	3	2.08%
Hythe North	2,632	4	3	8.91%
Hythe West	4,041	4	5	0.33%

8.10 Lyminge Parish Council

The existing Lyminge parish ward boundaries will remain unchanged as they do adequately represent the two communities. Currently Lyminge ward elects 7 parish

councillors and Etchingill elects 3 parish councillors. Due to projected electorate figures for December 2018, the number of councillors to be elected does require amending. It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for Lyminge Parish Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Current Number of Councillors to be elected	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Lyminge	1,775	10	10	1.56%
Etchingill	497	3	3	-5.21%

8.11 New Romney Town Council

The existing New Romney Town Council ward boundaries adequately represent the two communities and do not require any amendments to be made to the number of parish councillors to be elected. It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for New Romney Town Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Current Number of Councillors to be elected	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
New Romney Town	3,173	8	8	3.17%
New Romney Coast	2,978	8	8	-3.17%

8.12 Lydd Town Council

Following a Community Governance review which concluded in November 2010, Shepway District Council was requested to make a recommendation for a new warding pattern for Lydd Town Council establishing a ward recognising the Lydd coastal community and Lydd Town. The new ward boundary will utilise the existing polling districts operational in Lydd. It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for Lydd Town Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Lydd Town	2,864	9	2.26%
Lydd Coast	2,115	7	-2.91%

8.13 St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council

The existing St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council ward boundaries adequately represent the two communities and do not require any amendments to be made to the number of parish councillors to be elected. It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Current Number of Councillors to be elected	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
St Mary's Bay	2,375	6	6	4.36%
St Mary in the Marsh	280	1	1	-26.18%

8.14 Sandgate Parish Council

Sandgate Parish Council is currently warded into Sandgate Village and Sandgate Valley. It is proposed to amend the boundaries of these wards to greater reflect the two communities in Sandgate. The existing boundary will be amended from Enbrook Valley to the Shorncliffe Barracks and North Road newly proposed district seat of Sandgate boundary. It will then follow North Road down Military Road to the junction of Enbrook Road and cut across behind the Saga complex. Many of the properties affected are a distinct community in recently completed dwellings or residences that have been built in the past two decades. Sandgate Village will remain along the coastal part and old town of Sandgate building. It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for Sandgate Parish Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Current Number of Councillors to be elected	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Sandgate Village	2,565	8	6	6.83%
Sandgate Valley	1,837	3	5	-8.19%

8.15 Folkestone Town Council

Folkestone Town Council currently has coterminous ward boundaries with the existing district ward boundaries. As the number of district councillors is being reduced to 30 the optimum number of electors for each district councillor is 2,968.

Folkestone parish has a projected electorate of 36,275 by December 2018 and 18 parish councillors. The optimum number of electors for each Folkestone Town councillor would therefore be 2,015 which means that the new district boundaries are unable to follow the current pattern of being mapped exactly against the new district wards.

To ensure that there is a broad degree of understanding and working relationships between the Folkestone parish councillors and the district councillors, it is proposed to adopt a model utilising the new district wards by amalgamating their areas wherever possible into larger parish council wards or in the case of Cheriton, adopting the district ward pattern. The Folkestone Town Council wards would therefore be split into Folkestone North-East, Folkestone North-West, Folkestone South East and Folkestone South West.

It is therefore proposed that the following ward patterns are recommended for Folkestone Town Council:

Proposed ward	Electorate	Councillors to be elected	Variance from Optimum Figure
Folkestone North West (Cheriton district ward)	5,962	3	-1.39%
Folkestone North East (Broadmead Village, Folkestone North, Foord and north of the railway line in the East Cliff district wards)	12,636	6	4.5%
Folkestone South East (Folkestone Town and Harbour and south of the railway line in the East Cliff district wards)	7,440	4	-7.71%
Folkestone South West (Folkestone West and Folkestone Central district wards)	10,237	5	1.59%

8.16 All other Parish Council

There are no further recommendations for the introduction of warding patterns for the remaining parish councils within the district of Shepway.

9 Conclusion

In conclusion, the ward pattern proposed for the district council and for the parish councils is intended to fulfil the criteria as laid down in statute. All wards are to meet the criterion of electoral equality and where there are separate communities in the same ward, they have been put together to create a harmonious district ward pattern. Shepway District Council commends this proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Approved by Shepway District Council at its meeting on XXXX, minute XX