

SUBMISSION TO THE LGBCE – SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Below is a submission to the Surrey County Council division boundary consultation, focusing on the areas of Horley, Redhill and Reigate.

HORLEY

Following on from the Reigate and Banstead ward reorganisation in 2019, all of Salfords and Sidlow parish is contained either within Horley East and Salfords ward or Horley West and Sidlow ward. It would therefore make sense to bring HRE1 in with the rest of Salfords. There are arguments both for moving the whole parish in with divisions to the north (e.g. Salfords, Whitebushes and Reigate South) or aligning the whole parish with divisions in Horley. In the former scenario the two Horley divisions would have an average electorate variance of +5%; in the latter scenario the divisions would have an average electorate variance of -7.5%. Given the lack of necessary change in the rest of the borough I imagine the commission will prefer the former scenario, though I do believe there would be significant merit to having two county councillors who were solely focused on the Horley town council area.

In the event that Salfords and Sidlow parish is all brought in Horley centred wards and the boundaries are otherwise unchanged, the Horley West, Salfords and Sidlow division will have a variance of over 10%. Some further changes would hence be beneficial.

Logically it would make sense for the county divisions to take account of the current district ward boundaries, and I would hence recommend either a 'Horley West and Sidlow' and 'Horley East and Salfords' division set where the whole of each of the two borough wards fall within their namesake division, or a 'Horley West' and 'Horley East and Salfords' division set broadly adhering to the same set of principles but placing the whole of Salfords and Sidlow parish in one division.

To aid electoral equality in this setup I would suggest having the polling districts in Horley Central and South that are adjacent to Horley East and Salfords ward (HRC1 and HRC3) in the new Horley East and Salfords division, and those areas closer to the River Mole (HRC2) in the new Horley West division. This arrangement would exhibit improved electoral equality between the two Horley divisions compared to the arrangement that would result otherwise.

As the county division changes affect where parish boundaries can be set this review will also recommend town council boundaries in Horley, and I ask that this is not treated as an afterthought. Some points that may be worth considering:

- Westvale has developed as a very separate community to the rest of Horley, with the road layout designed in such a way so as to reinforce separation. It might therefore be worthwhile to create a 'Westvale Park' town council ward, contiguous with the HRW4 polling district.
- With HRE4 brought into Horley East and Salfords (or similar) there is no longer any reason for Horley Upper North ward to exist – it would be worth merging the ward with the rest of Horley East.
- It would be worth maintaining separate wards in Horley Central and South's area – including keeping HRC1 and HRC3 in separate wards even if they are both placed in Horley East and

Salfords. The names 'Horley Central North', 'Horley Central South' and 'Horley South East' would work as names for HRC1, HRC2 and HRC3 respectively.

REDHILL

In this section I shall make the case for a 'Redhill West and Wray Common' division containing the whole of Redhill West and Wray Common ward alongside some of the communities immediately south of the railway line.

Many of the facilities and school along the A25 corridor are Redhill focused or geared towards to same part of Reigate that falls under the 'Wray Common' banner, including schools and churches (many of which share the Redhill name, e.g. Redhill Baptist Church and Redhill United Reformed Church). The area of Redhill Common, on the other hand, separates Meadvale from these communities. It would therefore make sense to join Meadvale with either Reigate, Woodhatch or Earlswood (depending on best fit, most likely Reigate) and join the A25 corridor with West Redhill.

A proposed constitution for this ward:

- All of Redhill West and Wray Common
- MSJ1 and MSJ2 polling districts
- RGT5 polling district
- Doods Park Road and the roads off of it from RGT4 polling district

Otherwise, it's important to realign division boundaries to better fit with ward boundaries, and hence eliminate the need for many of the smaller polling districts (e.g. MSJ5, SPW2, SPW4, RGT1, RDW1, HMN7 and KTW3).

Many thanks for all of your work!