

Thanet

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Comment text:

Please find attached a submission from the Thanet Labour Party for consideration in the current boundary review relating to Thanet District Council.

Regards,

Rick Everitt
Leader, Thanet Labour group of councillors

Attached Documents:

- thanet-district-council-boundary-review-2024---final.pdf



Thanet District Council Boundary Review 2024

Submission of the Thanet Labour Party

1. This submission is made by leader of the Labour group of councillors on Thanet District Council, on behalf of the Labour Party in Thanet, with reference to, and consultation with, various elements that comprise it. It is being presented as an overall submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in response to its 2024 consultation on new electoral boundaries for Thanet District Council. The Thanet Labour Party is presenting a set of proposed boundaries for Thanet that we believe balances the need to make changes due to population increases but also still reflects the historic community links and geographical features within Thanet. We recognise the commission's criteria for decision making and the impossibility of achieving an outcome that balances these perfectly.
2. We note that the electorate of Thanet is projected to grow from 108,000 in 2024 to 117,821 by 2030. With the proposed reduction in the number of councillors from 56 to 42, this would imply a ratio of 2,805 electors to each councillor. Based on local experience, we have a preference for two-member wards, while allowing for one-member wards where necessary. The ideal size of a two-member ward would therefore be 5,610 electors and for a one-member ward 2,805 elected, and we note that the permitted variance to this is 10%.
3. We have followed the below principles when developing our proposed ward boundaries:
 - I. Respecting existing parish boundaries, as these reflect community identity. The only significant exception to this is in the parish of Manston, historically a small village where the current parish boundary will encompass a much bigger but separate set of housing developments adjoining the external urban development. We are proposing to split off the new housing development at Westwood Cross to create a new ward there. In theory this could remain as part of the Manston parish in a separate polling district, but we note that this is a matter for a future community governance review which will follow the adoption of the new district boundaries.
 - II. Minimising disruption to existing ward boundaries – we have focused on trying to minimise changes to the existing ward boundaries that have been in place for a long time as these already reflect communities as identified in the previous review. For 30% of the existing wards, we are proposing no substantial changes, and for 40% of wards we are proposing minor changes. It is only in seven wards, or 30%, that we are proposing substantial changes. In one case (Cliffsend), we are looking to reflect a historic community link (with Minster) that was severed in the current arrangements.
 - III. Being mindful of local ties and any special geographical circumstances – we have tried to avoid potential boundaries that might be beneficial in terms of achieving ideal numbers but which do not reflect local ties or geography.



4. We have broken our submission into the three main towns of Broadstairs, Margate, and Ramsgate, and then the rest of Thanet covering Westgate-on-Sea, Birchington and the various other Thanet villages.
5. Broadstairs.
 - I. We propose to respect the boundaries of Broadstairs parish and so create proposals within the existing area. Broadstairs is currently covered by 11 councillors with an electorate of 20,278. The electorate is projected to increase to 20,736 by 2030. Based on the ratio of 2,805 electors per councillor, this would give Broadstairs a projected figure of 7.39 councillors. We propose to round this down to 7 councillors.
 - II. We propose the following specific ward boundaries within Broadstairs:
 - i. Beacon Road ward:
 1. This generally follow existing boundaries, but as a one-member ward. This area is a distinct community within the town.
 2. We propose to move 733 electors from this ward over to the new Bradstowe ward. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 2,879, which represents 103.2% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 - ii. Bradstowe ward:
 1. Merge the wards of Kingsgate and Bradstowe into a new two-member ward, reuniting the coastal community.
 2. It is proposed to take 733 electors from Beacon Road into this ward to balance the electoral numbers. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,987, which represents 107.3% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 - iii. St Peters ward:
 1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward, leaving a two-member ward.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,866, which represents 104.5% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 - iv. Viking ward:
 1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward, leaving a two-member ward.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 6,004, which represents 107.0% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
6. Margate.
 - I. We propose to respect the current boundaries of Margate parish and so create proposals almost entirely within the existing area. The exception is to transfer 250 new development electors in from Westgate parish to balance numbers. We would argue that these notional properties have no history as part of either parish and that the current boundary has no significant meaning here given it comprises currently open land. The parish of Margate is currently covered by 17 councillors with an electorate of 33,366. The electorate is projected to increase



to 35,364 by 2030. Based on figures of 2,805 electors per councillor, this would give Margate a projected figure of 12.6 councillors. We propose to round this up to 13 councillors.

- II. We propose the following specific ward boundaries within Margate:
- i. Garlinge ward:
 - 1. Existing ward boundaries, with some minor changes to new developments with Westgate-on-Sea and Salmestone. This is a two-member ward.
 - 2. We propose to move 250 electors from the proposed new developments in Westgate-on-Sea ward into Garlinge and to remove 250 electors from the proposed new developments in Garlinge ward to Salmestone ward, to balance the electoral numbers.
 - 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,492, which represents 98.5% of the 2,805 electors per Councillor target.
 - ii. Westbrook ward:
 - 1. Based around old Westbrook ward, minus some electors to Margate Central. This will be a one-member ward. It is well defined from north to south by the A28, but there is a current anomaly around the inclusion of Margate railway station and adjacent roads, which is addressed by our proposal.
 - 2. We propose to take the existing Westbrook ward minus 873 electors to Margate Central to balance the electoral numbers. These would form a new polling district to address the fact that they are in the new Herne Bay and Sandwich parliamentary constituency, which we note is not a consideration for this review. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 - 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 2,662, which represents 95.5% of the 2,805 electors per Councillor target.
 - iii. Margate Central ward:
 - 1. The existing Margate Central ward, plus parts of Westbrook ward and Cliftonville West ward. This will be a two-member ward.
 - 2. We propose to take the existing Margate Central ward plus 873 electors from Westbrook ward (including the area around Margate railway station) and 534 electors from the Cliftonville West ward to balance the electoral numbers. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 - 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,369, which represents 95.7% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 - iv. Salmestone ward:
 - 1. The existing Salmestone ward plus electors from the adjacent new development in Garlinge ward. This will be a two-member ward.
 - 2. We propose to move 250 electors from the proposed new developments in Garlinge into this ward to balance the electoral numbers. These would form a new polling district to address the

fact that they are in the new Herne Bay and Sandwich parliamentary constituency, which we note is not a consideration for this review.

3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,372, which represents 95.8% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.

v. Cliftonville West ward:

1. Existing Cliftonville West ward minus electors to Margate Central. This will be a two-member ward.
2. We propose to move 534 electors from this ward into Margate Central to balance the electoral numbers. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,486, which represents 98.4% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.

vi. Cliftonville East ward:

1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward. This will now be a two-member ward.
2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,594, which represents 99.7% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.

vii. Dane Valley ward:

1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward. This will now be a two-member ward.
2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,639, which represents 100.5% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.

7. Ramsgate.

- I. We propose to respect the boundaries of Ramsgate parish and so create proposals that cover the existing area. The parish of Cliffsend has been included with Ramsgate wards previously, but it was part of the Minster parish until the end of the 20th century and is a distinct village with its own character, separated from Ramsgate by open land. We therefore propose to remove Cliffsend from the Ramsgate calculations. Excluding Cliffsend, the parish of Ramsgate is currently covered by 16 councillors with an electorate of 31,756. The electorate is projected to increase to 33,401 by 2030. Based on figures of 2,805 electors per councillor, this would give Ramsgate a projected figure of 11.9 councillors. We propose to round this up to 12 councillors.
- II. We propose the following specific ward boundaries within Ramsgate:
 - i. Nethercourt and Southwood ward:
 1. Merges the ward of Nethercourt in with part of the Pegwell RM polling district, and part of the old Central Harbour ward, to create a two-member ward which better reflects the natural boundary of the busy London Road and Grange Road.
 2. We propose to move 1,050 electors from the Pegwell RM polling district into this ward to balance the electoral numbers. We also propose to bring in 393 electors from the existing Central Harbour ward. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.

3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,289, which represents 94.3% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- ii. Westcliff ward:
1. Merges the ward of Central Harbour in with part of the Pegwell RM polling district, minus some electors to Ramsgate Central, to create a two-member ward reuniting the Westcliff coastal community.
 2. We propose to move the remaining 1,550 electors from the Pegwell RM polling district (see Nethercourt and Southwood) into this ward to balance the electoral numbers. It is proposed to also move 2,115 electors from the old Central Harbour ward into the new Ramsgate Central ward (below). The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,943, which represents 105.9% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- iii. Ramsgate Central ward:
1. Based on the old Eastcliff ward but gaining electors from the old Central Harbour ward and losing electors to the new Sir Moses Montefiore ward. This will be a two-member ward.
 2. We propose to move 2,115 electors from the old Central Harbour ward into this ward to balance the electoral numbers. It is proposed to remove the RF polling district from the old Eastcliff ward into the new Sir Moses Montefiore ward, except for 342 electors who will stay in Ramsgate Central. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,757, which represents 102.6% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- iv. Sir Moses Montefiore ward:
1. Merges the old ward of Sir Moses Montefiore in with most of the RF polling district from the old ward of Eastcliff. This will be a two-member ward, reuniting the coastal community.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,954, which represents 106.8% of the 2,805 electors per Councillor target.
- v. Newington ward:
1. Based on the existing Newington ward, this will be a two-member ward. The Newington estate has a very distinct identity and clear boundaries provided by main roads and the railway.
 2. We propose to bring in 600 electors from the new housing development in the existing VMA Polling District that directly links in with the Newington ward on Haine Road. These would form a new polling district to address the fact that they are in the new Herne Bay and Sandwich parliamentary constituency, which we note is not a consideration for this review. A subsequent community governance review would need to consider whether they become part of the parish of Ramsgate, but they have no existing parish identity. We also propose to move 107 electors from Haine in Northwood ward into Newington ward.

3. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,522, which represents 98.4% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- vi. Northwood ward:
 1. No changes are proposed to the existing ward, except the move from Northwood ward to Newington ward of 107 electors in Haine. This will be a two-member ward. The proposed properties to be moved are included at annex A.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,874, which represents 104.7% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
8. Birchington, Thanet Villages, and Westgate-on-Sea.
 - I. We propose to respect the boundaries of the parishes of Acol, Birchington, Cliffsend, Manston, Minster, Monkton, St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre, and Westgate-on-Sea. The only exceptions to this are around the new housing developments at Westwood Cross/Haine Road, part of the VMA polling district, and the small transfer from Westgate-on-Sea to Margate parish (Garlinge).
 - II. We propose the following specific ward boundaries:
 - i. Westgate-on-Sea ward:
 1. This parish is projected to grow from 5,831 electors to 6,307 electors. We propose taking 250 electors out of the proposed new development and putting it into Garlinge ward to balance the electoral numbers. This will be a two-member ward.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 6,057, which represents 108.0% of the 2,805 electors per Councillor target.
 - ii. Cliffsend and Minster ward:
 1. This creates a new ward covering the RL and VMI polling districts. This will be a two-member ward. We acknowledge that these parishes are in different parliamentary constituencies, which we note is not a consideration for this review.
 2. The number of electors for this ward will be 5,226, which represents 93.2% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 - iii. Westwood Cross ward:
 1. A new ward covering the new housing developments at Westwood Cross, which are an urban extension. It is difficult to project what the exact numbers of electors will be for this ward, but we have taken the new development in the VMA polling district as our basis (growth from 1,368 to 4,372). This will be a one-member ward. The additional properties are generally remote from the village of Manston and would swamp both Manston and the other villages as a whole if included in a ward with them.
 2. We also propose to remove 600 electors from the new housing development in the VMA polling district where it directly links in with the Newington ward on Haine Road and put this into Newington ward.



3. We assume for working purposes that the number of electors for this ward will be 3,000, which represents 106.9% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- iv. Thanet Villages ward:
1. VMK, VSA, VSN and VAC polling districts, plus the remainder of the VMA polling district. This will be a one-member ward bringing together five small village communities.
 2. We propose to remove 600 electors from the new housing development in the VMA Polling District that directly links in with the Newington ward on Haine Road and put this into Newington ward.
 3. Based on Westwood Cross ward being 3,000 electors, the number of electors for this ward would be 2,841, which represents 101.3% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
- v. Birchington:
1. The electorate of Birchington is due to increase from 8,781 to 10,347 by 2030. Based on figures of 2,805 electors per councillor, this would give Birchington a projected figure of 3.7 councillors. We propose to round this up to 4 councillors. This is 92.1% of the 2,805 electors per councillor target.
 2. Thanet Labour do not propose specific boundaries for Birchington but believe that the existing parish should be respected. This would lead to the creation of two two-member wards.

Rick Everitt
Leader, Thanet Labour group of district councillors

Appendix A

<u>Ward Impacts</u>	<u>Properties changing wards</u>	<u>Final numbers</u>
Beacon Road to Bradstowe	Convent Road, Lerryn Road, Rosetower Court, Elmwood Avenue, Elmwood Close, Callis Court Road, Fig Tree Road, The Paddocks, Northcliffe Gardens, The Banks, Bairds Hill, Wychdene, Reading Street Road, Reading Street, Elmwood Close, Trinity Square, Astor Road, Balliol Road, Old Green Road, The Oaks, Cedar Close, Churchfields, and Worchester Grove.	733 electors moving from Beacon Road to Bradstowe
Westbrook to Margate Central	Albert Road, Buenos Ayres, Crescent Road, Garfield Road, Hatfeild Road, Royal Crescent, Seabathing Terrace, Sea View Terrace, Westbrook Road, Canterbury Road, Westcliff Gardens, Westbrook Gardens, Rancorn Road, Westbrook Avenue (partial), Royal Esplanade (partial), Turnstone Mews, Westcliff Road.	873 electors moving from Westbrook to Margate Central
Cliftonville West to Margate Central	Addington Street, Addington Square, Addington Road, Victoria Road, Carroways Place, Upper Grove, Thanet Road, Park Lane, Dane Park Road, Park Crescent Road, Dane Road (partial) and Danesmead Terrace.	534 electors moving from Cliftonville West to Margate Central
RM Polling District to Nethercourt and Southwood	Edith Road, Foreland Heights, Grange Road, Hillcrest Gardens, Laurice Court, London Road, Napleton Court, Napleton Road, Norman Road, Queen Bertha Road, St Augustines Park, St Mildreds Avenue (partial), St Mildreds Road, St Lawrence Avenue (partial), and Wantsum Lodge.	1,050 electors moving from RM Polling District into Nethercourt and Southwood
Westcliff to Nethercourt and Southwood	Grange Road, Mill Cottages, Nursery Close, Park Road (partial), Park View, High Street (partial – St Lawrence), and Wilfred Road.	393 electors moving from Westcliff to Nethercourt and Southwood



RM Polling District to Westcliff	Abbey Grove, Belle Vue Tavern, Chalk Hill, Chilton Lane, Coastguard Cottages, Convent Walk, Court Stairs Mews, Court Stairs Manor, Curlinge Court, Downs Road, Durlock Avenue, Goodwin Road, Kevin Drive, Lauriston Close, Mark Avenue, Mayforth Gardens, Minster Road, Orchard End, Pegwell Avenue, Pegwell Close, Pegwell Road, Royal Esplanade, Saxon Road, Senlac Close, Silverdale Road, Smugglers Close, St Mildreds Avenue (partial), St Lawrence Avenue (partial), Stancombe Avenue, Warre Avenue, Warwick Drive, and Watchchester Avenue.	1,550 electors moving from RM Polling District into Westcliff
Westcliff into Ramsgate Central	Belgrave Close, Belmont Road, Bolton Street, Bramcote Walk, Cannon Road, Central Road, Chatham Street, Churchill Court, Eagle Hill, Elmstone Road, Gilbert Road, Greenfinches Way, High Street, Hillbrow Road, Jardins Close, Keele House, Kings Road, Margate Road, Millers Hill, Newington Road, Paradise, Park Road (partial), Princes Road, Queens Gate Road, Shah Place, South Eastern Road, Stanley Road, Station Approach Road, Stephens Close, Albert Court, Cavendish Place, Cavendish Street, Chapel Place, Chapel Place Lane, Clarendon Gardens, Charlotte Court, Effingham Street, Geoge Street, Guildford Lawn, Harbour Parade, Harbour Street, Meeting Street, Meeting Street Mews, Monkton Place, Queensbridge Drive, York Street, and York Street Terrace.	2,115 electors moving from Westcliff into Ramsgate Central
Ramsgate Central into Sir Moses Montefiore	The following properties from the RF Polling District will not be transferred from Ramsgate Central to Sir Moses Montefiore: King Street, Wellesley Court, Alma Place, Kings Place, Hereson Road, Montefiore Cottages, Albion Hill, Albion Place, Albion Mews, Albion Court, Kent Place, Kent Terrace, and Harbour Parade.	342 electors not moving with RF Polling District from Ramsgate Central to Sir Moses Montefiore
Northwood to Newington	Beerlings Farm Road, Coldswood Road, Haine Farm Mews, Haine Road, and Hawthorne Grange.	107 electors moving from Northwood to Newington

