

# New electoral arrangements for Thanet District Council Draft Recommendations

October 2024

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### **A note on our mapping:**

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

## What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

6 More details regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Thanet?

7 We are conducting a review of Thanet District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2001, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality.' Our aim is to create 'electoral equality,' where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Thanet are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

## Our proposals for Thanet

9 Thanet should be represented by 42 councillors, 14 fewer than there are now.

10 Thanet should have 20 wards, three fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but two wards should change.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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<sup>2</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 8 October 2024 to 16 December 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 16 December 2024 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 25 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Thanet. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
12 March 2024	Number of councillors decided
19 March 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
27 May 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
8 October 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 December 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 April 2025	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2024	2030
Electorate of Thanet	108,000	117,821
Number of councillors	42	42
Average number of electors per councillor	2,571	2,805

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Thanet are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period five years from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2030.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.



26 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

## Number of councillors

27 Thanet District Council currently has 56 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing this number by 14 will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 42 councillors: for example, 42 one-councillor wards, 21 two-councillor wards, 14 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received five submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Two submissions were broadly in favour of a decrease in the number of councillors while three were opposed. However, we did not consider these submissions to have made a compelling case for maintaining or increasing the number of councillors and have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 42-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 43 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals from the Conservative Group on Thanet District Council ('the Conservatives') and the Thanet Labour Party ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the district.

31 The two district-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one- and two-councillor wards for the area. This was consistent with the Council's request that no three-councillor wards be proposed. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that, although both schemes included several wards with high levels of electoral inequality, both generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations are based primarily on the Labour scheme, as the Conservative scheme included higher levels of electoral inequality, proposed 43 councillors instead of 42 and, in our consideration, was less representative of local communities, particularly in omitting any separate representation for Westwood

Cross and splitting parishes in the Thanet Villages area. However, we have incorporated elements of the Conservative scheme into our draft recommendations in the Ramsgate area, as we considered these to provide for clearer boundaries than those proposed by Labour.

33 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

34 We visited the area in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Thanet helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations

35 Our draft recommendations are for three three-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 The tables and maps on pages 8–19 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Thanet. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

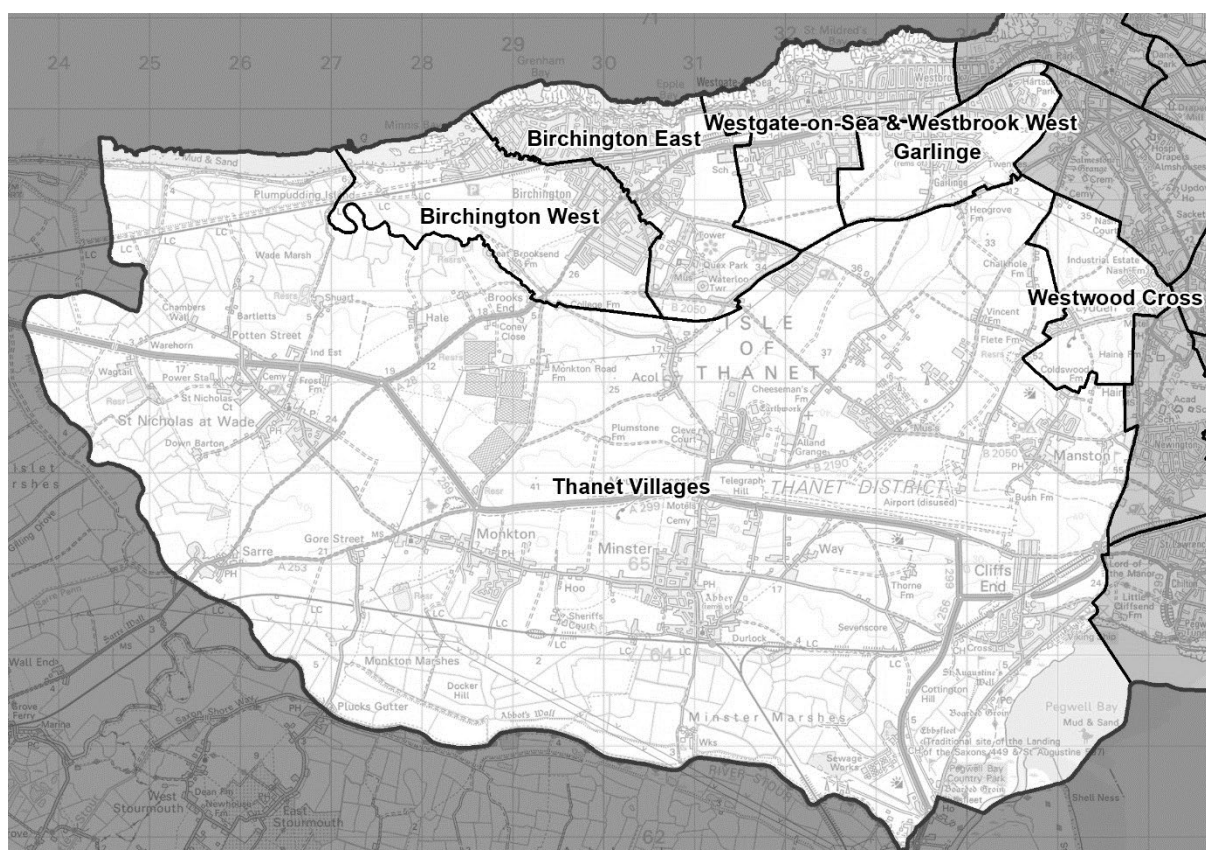
37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

38 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## West Thanet



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Birchington East	2	-10%
Birchington West	2	-6%
Garlinge	2	-8%
Thanet Villages	3	3%
Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West	3	0%
Westwood Cross	1	6%

### *Birchington East and Birchington West*

39 We received three submissions with regards to Birchington parish. Two of these – from Labour and from a resident – advised against splitting the parish between wards. The Labour scheme proposed four councillors represent the area but did not propose a specific warding pattern. The Conservative scheme proposed a two-councillor Birchington & Westgate Coastal ward composed of the existing Birchington North ward, plus the area of Westgate-on-Sea parish north of the railway line. This would result in a ward with an electoral variance of 7% by 2030.

40 The Conservative scheme also proposed a two-councillor Birchington East ward made up of the existing Birchington South ward minus the rural area beyond Canterbury Road, Mill Lane/Mill Row and Essex Gardens, which would instead be

allocated to a single-councillor Thanet Little Villages ward. While this ward would have good electoral equality, with a forecast electoral variance of 5% by 2030, the proposal appears to discount a large housing development planned in the area, which is expected to see 1,280 new electors spread across the boundaries of these proposed Birchington East and Thanet Little Villages wards. This would have the effect of mixing rural and urban overspill populations in the Thanet Little Villages ward but, were the development to be wholly included in Birchington East ward, this would result in a 24% variance there and -35% in Thanet Little Villages ward. We also agree with the Labour and resident submissions that the parish boundaries of Birchington should be respected, so have therefore not adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

41 We attempted to modify the existing boundaries of Birchington North and Birchington South – which will have variances of 26% and 21%, respectively, by 2030 under a 42-councillor scheme – but were unable to do so while balancing our statutory criteria. Having toured the area we also attempted to create a boundary around Canterbury Road, which appeared to us as a potentially strong and identifiable boundary. However, we were unable to produce wards with good electoral equality. We have instead drawn the boundary along Acol Hill, Park Lane, Station Road, the railway line and Minnis Road, keeping both sides of the respective roads in a two-councillor Birchington West ward, with the remainder of the parish in a two-councillor Birchington East ward. On our tour, we observed that these roads serve as one of the main arteries through the parish, with Station Road serving as its main shopping precinct, thus providing for clearly identifiable boundaries. Our proposed Birchington East and Birchington West wards will have variances of -10% and -6% by 2030, respectively.

#### *Garlinge and Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West*

42 The Conservative scheme in this area proposed wards which we calculate will have high electoral inequality by 2030. This included a single-councillor Westgate South ward made up of Westgate-on-Sea parish south of the railway line with a variance of 37%, a two-councillor Dent-de-Lion & Westbrook West made up of the existing Garlinge ward west of High Street and the existing Westbrook ward west of Old Crossing Road and Pembroke Avenue with a variance of -33%, and two-councillor Hartsdown ward, made up of the remainder of the existing Garlinge ward and the existing Salmestone ward west of Tivoli Road and Manston Road, with a variance of -24%. We consider that these variances are too high to accept, so we have therefore not adopted these proposals.

43 The Labour scheme also included high electoral equality in two of its three proposed wards, albeit to a lesser degree. The scheme proposed maintaining the existing Westgate-on-Sea ward under two councillors, which will produce a variance of 12% by 2030, as well as the existing Garlinge ward with its two councillors minus the proposed Shottendane housing development, which will have a variance of -8%.

It also proposed a single-councillor Westbrook ward, made up of the existing ward west of Westcliff Gardens, with a variance of -25%.

44 We have adopted the Labour proposals for Garlinge ward in our draft recommendations. To address the high electoral inequality in Labour's proposed Westgate-on-Sea and Westbrook wards we have combined them into one three-councillor Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West ward with an electoral variance of 0% by 2030. As well as possessing excellent electoral equality, this proposed ward also satisfies the requests of three residents that several streets, including Chester Road, Essex Road, Hockeredge Gardens and Queen's Road, be included in a ward with Westgate-on-Sea, as they stated residents there identify with the town. Based on these submissions, we consider our proposed Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West ward will effectively reflect community identities and interests.

#### *Thanet Villages and Westwood Cross*

45 The Conservative scheme proposed three wards in this area. This included a single-councillor Thanet Little Villages ward made up of the parishes of St Nicholas-at-Wade, Sarre and Monkton west of Barrow Man Road/Seamark Road and south of the A299, as well as the area of Birchington parish discussed above, which would have a variance of -4% by 2030. Additionally, a two-councillor Acol & Manston ward with a variance of -10% would be made up of Acol and Manston parishes plus the remainder of Monkton parish and Minster parish north of the A299, and a two-councillor Minster & Cliffsend ward with a variance of -14% would be made up of Cliffsend parish and Minster parish south of the A299.

46 While we note that most of the proposed wards would have good electoral equality, the division of Monkton parish between two wards would require us to create a parish ward with only 25 electors, which would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government.

47 The Labour scheme proposed a single-councillor Thanet Villages ward made up of the existing ward minus Minster parish and the areas of Manston parish with large residential developments. We calculated this ward would have a variance of -58% by 2030. The scheme also proposed a two-councillor Cliffsend & Minster ward made up of those two parishes, which we calculate will have a variance of 25% by 2030, and a single-councillor Westwood Cross ward made up of new developments in that area, with a variance of 2%.

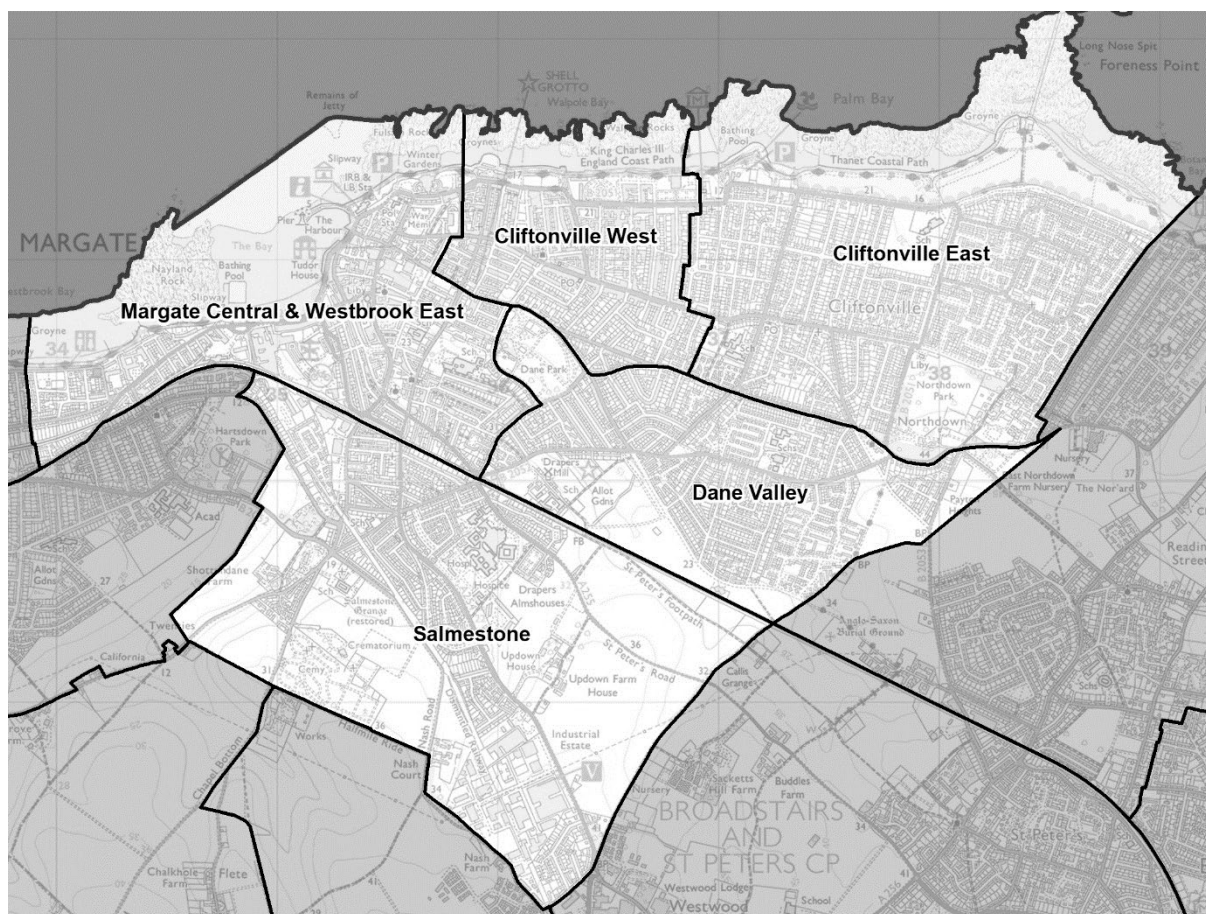
48 In considering our proposals for this area, we were assisted by several submissions from residents, parish councillors and parish councils. Minster Parish Council and a resident supported the continuation of a three-councillor Thanet Villages ward, stating it effectively represents the concerns of all rural parishes on Thanet District Council. A resident also wrote to say that Minster parish should be wholly contained within a single ward due to its importance to the village. Councillor



Chapman of Cliffsend Parish Council wrote to support the inclusion of the parish in a ward with other rural villages, rather than with part of Ramsgate, as at present, and we note that both the Labour and Conservative schemes satisfy this. Three residents also wrote to support the creation of a Westwood Cross ward to better represent the large number of new residents in the area. One proposed a ward which would include all of the existing Northwood ward west of Newington Road, as well as all of Manston parish east of Manston Road. This could form the basis of a two-councillor ward with a variance of 10% by 2030, but includes the village of Manston itself, which we do not envisage would wish to be included in an urban ward.

49 After careful consideration, we deem the area to be best served by a three-councillor Thanet Villages ward made up of the existing ward with the addition of Cliffsend parish, minus the large housing developments in Manston parish, which would instead form a single-councillor Westwood Cross ward, as well as Valley Road and Bradgate Holiday Park. These wards will have variances of 3% and 6%, respectively.

## Margate



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Cliftonville East	2	0%
Cliftonville West	2	-1%
Dane Valley	2	1%
Margate Central & Westbrook East	2	4%
Salmestone	2	-3%

### *Cliftonville East, Cliftonville West, Dane Valley, Margate Central & Westbrook East and Salmestone*

50 The Conservative and Labour schemes proposed broadly similar wards in Margate, based largely on the existing boundaries. The Labour scheme expanded Margate Central westward to the boundary of its proposed Westbrook ward, while adding Addington Road, Dane Park Road, Park Lane and Thanet Road to Cliftonville West ward. Their Cliftonville East and Dane Valley wards were unchanged while, as alluded to in paragraph 43, the Shottendane housing development was added to Salmestone. All these wards would have two councillors and good electoral equality by 2030.



51 The Conservative scheme differed from Labour's in that the area of the existing Margate Central ward east of Victoria Road was added to a truncated Salmestone ward (see paragraph 42), the area of the existing Cliftonville West ward west of Bath Road and south of Dane Road was added to a Westbrook East & Margate ward, and the remainder of the existing Westbrook ward. These proposed two-councillor wards would also have good electoral equality by 2030.

52 While we consider that both schemes in this area satisfy our three statutory criteria, we have adopted the Labour proposals in our draft recommendations as a direct consequence of our recommendations in the west of Thanet. We also consider that the Labour scheme better satisfies the criteria of community identity in Salmestone which, in the Conservative scheme, we consider to be arbitrarily divided between wards in the west.

## Broadstairs & St Peter's



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Broadstairs North	2	4%
Broadstairs South	2	10%
St Peter's	3	4%

### *Broadstairs North, Broadstairs South and St Peter's*

53 The Labour scheme made relatively minor changes to the wards in Broadstairs & St Peter's parish, truncating Beacon Road into a single-councillor ward with Beacon Road itself as its eastern boundary, and combining Bradstowe and Kingsgate wards into a single two-councillor ward. These wards would have variances of -10% and -13% by 2030, respectively, while an unchanged Viking ward would have a variance of 7% under two councillors.

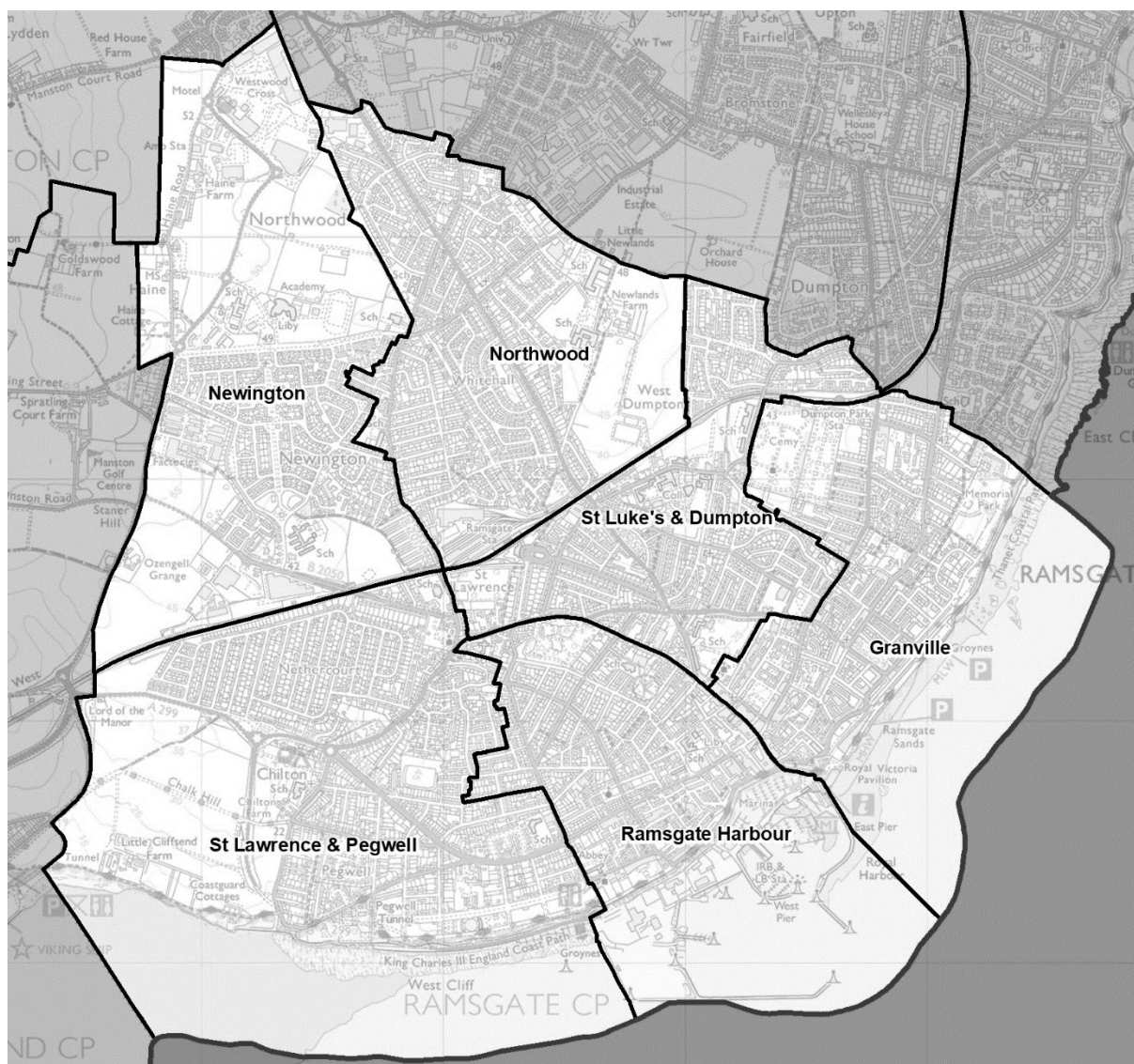
54 The Conservative scheme also maintained the boundaries of the existing Viking ward and combined Bradstowe and Kingsgate wards, each being assigned two councillors, but also combined the existing Beacon Road ward with the existing St Peter's ward north of Dane Court Road to create a two-councillor St Peter's ward, with the remainder forming a single-councillor Bromstone ward. The Conservatives' submission stated that their proposed St Peter's ward better represents the actual St Peter's area, stating Beacon Road is known locally as 'the St Peter's estate', also noting the naming of St Peter's Recreation Ground. However, while the other proposed wards would have good electoral equality by 2030, we calculated this proposed St Peter's ward would have a variance of 19%.

55 We noted some dissatisfaction with the existing boundaries in the submissions from residents. One noted that the Viking ward 'does not feel like a particularly distinctive area and has no obvious central focus', while another argued the existing five wards could be reduced to three. The resident also criticised the boundary between Bradstowe and Viking as 'illogical' due to it dividing central Broadstairs, and we note that the boundary runs down the middle of the High Street shopping precinct. This resident suggested that the existing Viking and Bradstowe wards could be combined into a 'Broadstairs Central' ward, while Beacon Road and Kingsgate could be combined into a 'Broadstairs North' ward. These wards would have variances of -2% and 12% under two and three councillors, respectively.

56 In considering our recommendations for this area, we concluded that the available evidence did not support the creation of single-member wards, owing to the highly integrated settlements in the parish, from which neither stands apart. We also consider that the railway line, which is partially utilised in the existing boundaries and the Conservative and Labour schemes, forms a clearly identifiable and effective boundary throughout the parish. We have therefore added the existing Viking ward west of the railway line to St Peter's, forming a three-councillor ward with a variance of 4% by 2030. To the remainder of Viking ward, we have added the area south of Lanthorne Road, Lanthorne Place and Newmans Close to form a two-councillor Broadstairs South ward with a variance of 10%. The remainder of the existing Bradstowe ward has been added to Beacon Road and Kingsgate wards to form a two-councillor Broadstairs North ward with a variance of 4%.



## Ramsgate



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Granville	2	2%
Newington	2	-6%
Northwood	2	-6%
Ramsgate Harbour	2	1%
St Lawrence & Pegwell	2	7%
St Luke's & Dumpton	2	-3%

### *Newington and Northwood*

57 The Conservative scheme in this area is based on the existing ward boundaries but transfers the area of the current Northwood ward west of Newington Road into a Newington ward. However, due to the large number of new developments being built in this area, this results in a variance of 20% for Newington ward by 2030 and -27%

in Northwood ward, which they renamed Viaduct. Maintaining the existing boundaries would instead produce variances of -14% and 7%, respectively. However, as noted in the Conservative submission, the new developments are joined to the Newington estate in the south via Haine Road, and Jackey Baker's Recreation Ground is well used by local children. We also note that Newington Library is in this area and should ideally be part of Newington ward.

58 We considered the Labour submission to be unclear in describing its proposed wards in this area and this was not illustrated with a map. The submission proposed maintaining the boundaries of the existing Northwood ward except for Beerlings Farm Road, Coldswood Road, Haine Farm Mews, Haine Road and Hawthorne Grange, which would be added to Newington ward. It also described adding to Newington ward a planned housing development off Haine Road in the existing Thanet Villages ward, which we have taken to be the Manston Green development, though there are several other planned developments in the area which have not been assigned. However, our best estimate puts the variances of the two-councillor Newington ward at -3% and the two-councillor Northwood ward at 1%. Assuming we have interpreted the proposed ward correctly, however, Northwood ward is left with a promontory travelling north along Haine Road which we do not consider to be conducive to effective and convenient local government or local identity.

59 Our draft recommendations most closely resemble the Conservative proposals. However, in order to improve electoral equality, we have included the area between Newington Road and Jackey Baker's Recreation Ground in Northwood ward, as well as Lancaster Close, Chichester Road, Surrey Close, Windmill Walk and Ramsgate Arts Primary School. We have also used the full length of the railway as the southern boundary of Newington ward, as we note that the existing boundary used by the Conservatives excludes several sites associated with the St Lawrence area from St Lawrence & Pegwell ward, including St Lawrence Industrial Estate, St Lawrence-in-Thanet Church of England Junior Academy and St. Lawrence-in-Thanet Church. Our two-councillor Newington and Northwood wards will both have variances of -6%.

*Granville, Ramsgate Harbour, St Lawrence & Pegwell and St Luke's & Dumpton*

60 The Labour scheme in this area proposed five wards with two councillors each. This included a Nethercourt & Southwood ward with a variance of -13% which was similar to the existing Nethercourt ward, but with the northern boundary extending along the railway line and the southern boundary continuing along London Road to Grange Road. The scheme also proposed a Westcliff ward with a variance of 19%, which was made up of the remainder of the existing Cliffsend & Pegwell ward minus Cliffsend parish, plus the existing Central Harbour ward south of Park Road and High Street.

61 In addition, the Labour scheme included a Sir Moses Montefiore ward with a variance of 7%, expanded to include most of the existing Eastcliff ward south of King

Street but excluding Wellesley Court, Alma Place, King's Place, Hereson Road, Montefiore Cottages, Albion Hill, Albion Place, Albion Mews, Albion Court, Kent Place, Kent Terrace and Harbour Parade. A Ramsgate Central ward with a variance of -6% was made up of the remainder of the existing Eastcliff and Central Harbour wards.

62 The Conservative scheme in this area proposed four wards with two councillors each. This included a St Lawrence & Pegwell ward with a variance of 14% made up of the existing Cliffsend & Pegwell ward, minus Cliffsend parish, and the existing Nethercourt ward, as well as a Ramsgate Harbour ward with a variance of -5%, made up of the existing Central Harbour ward south of Park Road. The scheme also included a Granville ward made up of the existing Sir Moses Montefiore ward east of Hereson Road and the existing Eastcliff ward south of Boundary Road. This ward would have a variance of -11% under 42 councillors but -9% under 43, as in the complete Conservative scheme. A St Luke's & Dumpton ward with a variance of 5% was made up of the remainder of the existing Sir Moses Montefiore, Eastcliff and Central Harbour wards.

63 A resident also submitted a warding scheme for Ramsgate which included three-councillor wards for Newington & Northwood and St Luke's & Hereson and two-member wards for St Lawrence & Pegwell, Royal Harbour and East Cliff Montefiore. The scheme was broadly similar to the Conservatives', though the submission did not provide a detailed description of boundaries and included a map which in many cases lacked clear boundaries. The resident's St Lawrence & Pegwell ward also notably included Cliffsend parish.

64 In drawing up our draft recommendations for this area, we had to consider that both the Conservative and Labour schemes contained wards with high electoral equality. In the Labour scheme, we were able to achieve good electoral equality by extending the eastern boundary of Nethercourt & Southwood to Crescent Road. However, this only served to exaggerate the unusual shape of Westcliff ward while also dividing another of the main roads through the two wards, the others being London Road and Pegwell Road. We also considered that the boundary between Labour's proposed Sir Moses Montefiore and Ramsgate Central wards was not clear and identifiable.

65 We therefore based our draft recommendations on the Conservative scheme, which we considered to have used consistently clear boundaries throughout. However, addressing the 14% and -11% variances in St Lawrence & Pegwell and Granville wards, respectively, meant we made changes to all four wards. As mentioned in paragraph 59, we extended the northern boundary of St Lawrence & Pegwell ward along the length of the railway line. We also included Bloomsbury Road, the north side of Edith Road, Ellington Infant School, Ellington Place, The Grange, Lorne Road, Mays Road, Napleton Road north of Edith Road and

Southwood Road in Ramsgate Harbour ward, most of which are accessed from Grange Road and do not directly join with the rest of St Lawrence & Pegwell ward. This changes the variances of St Lawrence & Pegwell and Ramsgate Harbour wards to 7% and 6% by 2030, respectively.

66 To improve the -11% variance in Granville ward, we have extended the western boundary from Hereson Road to the edge of Ramsgate Cemetery, including Cecilia Road and Lillian Road, which results in a 5% variance for the ward and -11% for St Luke's & Dumpton. To improve the level of electoral equality for St Luke's & Dumpton ward, we have extended the southern boundary from Boundary Road to High Street, taking in Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. This results in a -3% variance for the ward and further improves the variances of Granville and Ramsgate Harbour to 2% and 1%, respectively.

67 We have adopted the Conservatives' proposed ward names in our draft recommendations but would welcome feedback on these choices and whether some of the other proposed ward names would be more appropriate. We would particularly welcome views on the resident's proposed name of 'Royal Harbour' for our proposed Ramsgate Harbour ward, which highlights its status as the only royal harbour in the country, and over the continued use of 'Sir Moses Montefiore' for our proposed Granville ward, or variants thereof, such as the resident's proposed 'East Cliff & Montefiore'.





## Conclusions

68 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Thanet, referencing the 2024 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2024	2030
Number of councillors	42	42
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,571	2,805
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	11	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

#### Draft recommendations

Thanet District Council should be made up of 42 councillors serving 20 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 16 two-councillor wards and three three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Thanet District Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Thanet District Council on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

69 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

70 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Thanet District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

71 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Birchington, Broadstairs & St Peter's, Manston and Ramsgate.

72 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Birchington parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Birchington Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Birchington East	5
Birchington West	5

73 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Broadstairs & St Peter's parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Broadstairs North	4
Broadstairs South	4
Lanthorpe Road	1
St Peter's	6

74 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Manston parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Manston Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Manston Rural	2
Westwood Cross	5

75 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ramsgate parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Ramsgate Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Granville	3
Newington	2
Northwood	2
Ramsgate Harbour	3
St Lawrence & Pegwell	3
St Luke's & Dumpton	3



## Have your say

76 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

77 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Thanet, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

78 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

79 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

80 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Thanet)**  
**LGBCE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**3 Bunhill Row**  
**London**  
**EC1Y 8YZ**

81 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Thanet District Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

82 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

83 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Thanet?

84 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

85 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

86 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lqbce.org.uk](http://www.lqbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

87 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

88 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

89 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft



Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Thanet District Council in 2027.



## Equalities

90 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Draft recommendations for Thanet District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Birchington East	2	4,918	2,459	-4%	5,060	2,530	-10%
2	Birchington West	2	3,863	1,932	-25%	5,287	2,644	-6%
3	Broadstairs North	2	5,660	2,830	10%	5,832	2,916	4%
4	Broadstairs South	2	6,128	3,064	19%	6,179	3,090	10%
5	Cliftonville East	2	5,415	2,708	5%	5,594	2,797	0%
6	Cliftonville West	2	5,920	2,960	15%	5,560	2,780	-1%
7	Dane Valley	2	5,607	2,804	9%	5,639	2,820	1%
8	Garlinge	2	3,922	1,961	-24%	5,175	2,588	-8%
9	Granville	2	5,843	2,922	14%	5,745	2,873	2%
10	Margate Central & Westbrook East	2	6,128	3,064	19%	5,840	2,920	4%
11	Newington	2	3,562	1,781	-31%	5,275	2,638	-6%
12	Northwood	2	5,245	2,623	2%	5,282	2,641	-6%

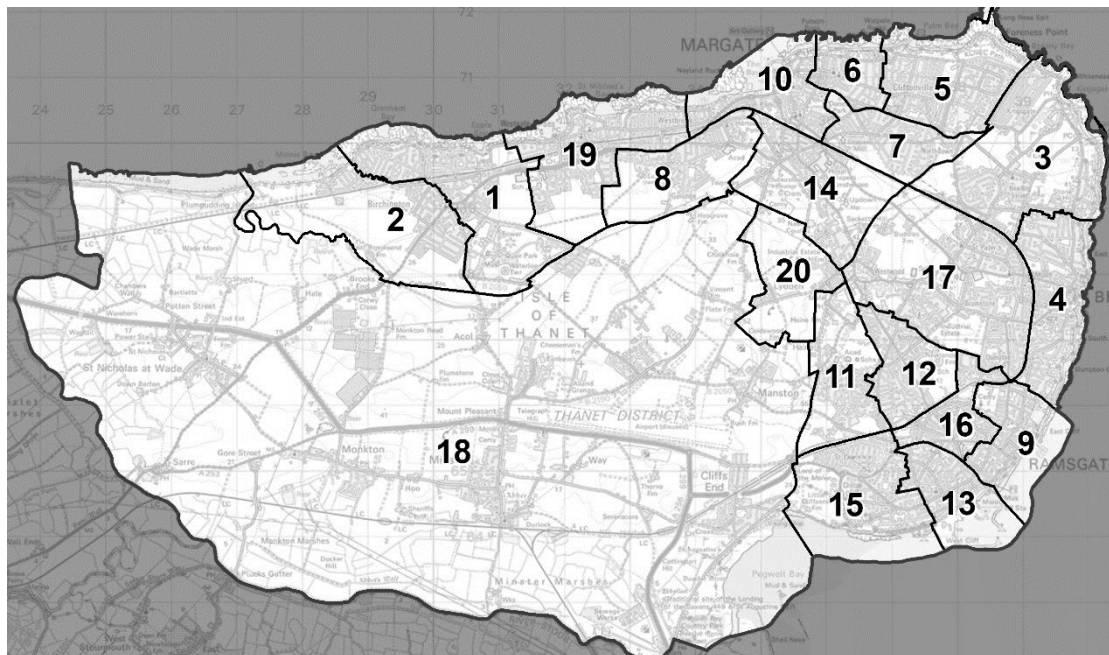
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Ramsgate Harbour	2	5,801	2,901	13%	5,667	2,834	1%
14	Salmestone	2	4,277	2,139	-17%	5,439	2,720	-3%
15	St Lawrence & Pegwell	2	5,877	2,939	14%	6,008	3,004	7%
16	St Luke's & Dumpton	2	5,428	2,714	6%	5,423	2,712	-3%
17	St Peter's	3	8,490	2,830	10%	8,724	2,908	4%
18	Thanet Villages	3	7,260	2,420	-6%	8,684	2,895	3%
19	Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West	3	7,928	2,643	3%	8,423	2,808	0%
20	Westwood Cross	1	728	728	-72%	2,983	2,983	6%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,821</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>-</b>

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

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

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Birchington East
2	Birchington West
3	Broadstairs North
4	Broadstairs South
5	Cliftonville East
6	Cliftonville West
7	Dane Valley
8	Garlinge
9	Granville
10	Margate Central & Westbrook East
11	Newington
12	Northwood
13	Ramsgate Harbour
14	Salmestone
15	St Lawrence & Pegwell
16	St Luke's & Dumpton
17	St Peter's
18	Thanet Villages
19	Westgate-on-Sea & Westbrook West
20	Westwood Cross

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/thanet](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/thanet)



## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/thanet](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/thanet)

#### *Local Authority*

- Thanet District Council

#### *Political Groups*

- The Conservative Group on Thanet District Council
- Thanet Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor P. Chapman (Cliffsend Parish Council)

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Minster Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 38 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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