



DRAFT Version 1

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council – Electoral Review – Submission by Torbay Council

1. Introduction

This submission sets out a response from Torbay Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) invitation to comment on their draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council.

The Council has already submitted initial recommendations on proposed changes to warding patterns as part of an earlier consultation process. Details of these recommendations together with other responses can be found at

The cross party Constitution Working Party met on two occasions to consider the LGBCE's draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council. This document sets out the recommendations from the Constitution Working Party, which were approved by the Council on 7 December 2017 (to be confirmed after the meeting).

2. Torbay Council Submission

Torbay Council acknowledges that it is extremely difficult to ensure exact electoral equality across Torbay, whilst keeping communities together and recognising geographical boundaries. The Council broadly supports the proposals set out in the LGBCE's draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council. The Council recommends the following:

- (a) Plainmoor should remain in the St Marychurch Ward, where it currently sits, as the residents of this area interact more with the St Marychurch area than the Ellacombe area in terms of their day to day activities;
- (b) in light of the proposed boundaries for the Wellswood Ward, the current Wellswood Ward name should be retained;
- (c) based on the proposed boundaries for the Torwood Ward shown in the consultation proposals, the Tormohun Ward name should be retained as this is an historical name that has been used for this area for a long time and the community relate to this name;

- (d) the proposed new Collaton St Mary Ward should be combined with the Kings Ash Ward to make a three member Ward and that the Ward should be named 'Kings Ash with Collaton', this fits with the current Blatchcombe Ward area. The 21 properties, 31 electors on the Brixham Road at Tweenaway should be moved into this Ward from the Goodrington with Roselands Ward. A one member Ward for Collaton St Marys will not serve the residents well as this will be too much for one member to support;
- (e) no changes should be made to the current Tor Bay area which currently sits within the Wellswood Ward (comprising the coastline and sea area of Torbay) this is because there are no electors affected by the proposal and therefore keeping the boundaries the same will have no impact on electoral equality. This area is managed by the Council's Harbour Committee and it could cause confusion if it were split between the different Wards;
- (f) the Maidencombe area formerly known as Polling District HA up to and including Easterfield Lane should be moved from the new Barton with Watcombe Ward to the St Marychurch Ward as the Maidencombe residents feel they belong to the community within the St Marychurch area and carry out more of their day to day activities in this area. This equates to 625 electors (based on 2023 predictions). This would take the Barton with Watcombe to 8,242 electors with a variance of -4% (8,867 minus 625) and the St Marychurch Ward to 9,047 electors with a variance of 5% in 2023 (8422 plus 625);
- (g) the Churston with Galmpton Ward should be renamed 'Churston with Hookhills' as large part of the Ward is in the Hookhills area of Paignton.