

**Governance Committee – Thursday, 19 November 2015,  
4:40pm**

Please find attached item 5 (*East Sussex County Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on county electoral division boundaries*) for consideration at the Governance Committee meeting being held on 19 November. This item was marked as to follow on the agenda published on 11 November 2015.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Governance Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>19 November 2015</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ESCC submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on county electoral division (CED) boundaries</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To formulate and recommend a draft submission for consideration by Governance Committee and Full Council.</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**To recommend the County Council to agree the submission attached at appendix 1 in respect of the CED patterns for each of the district and borough areas of East Sussex.**

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### **1 Background**

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body whose main activity is to carry out electoral reviews of principal local authorities in England. The Commission is carrying out a review of East Sussex County Council in a coordinated process alongside simultaneous reviews of all five districts and boroughs within East Sussex. The detailed information about the review is available on the LGBCE website here:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/east-sussex>

1.2 The first stage of this review (decision on council size) is complete. The Council's submission for stage 1 was considered at Governance Committee on 29 June 2015 and agreed at Full Council on 14 July 2015. The LGBCE has determined that East Sussex County Council shall have 50 councillors (an increase of one) which will take effect from the next county council elections in May 2017; this is in accordance with the County Council's submission. The Council's also included the following recommendations in its stage 1 submission:

- There should be a consistent picture of single-member county electoral divisions across the county (with no multi-member divisions).
- There should be coterminosity between county electoral division and district/borough ward boundaries; under no circumstances should any county electoral division straddle a district or borough boundary.

1.3 The next stage, and the subject of this report, is to make proposals on the pattern of CED boundaries for submission to the LGBCE. The LGBCE has published a guide on how to propose electoral division and ward patterns here. In summary, the main criteria are:

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of people.
- Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – 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 – this means ensuring that the new wards or electoral divisions 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.

1.4 The LGBCE recognises that perfect electoral equality is unlikely to be achieved across the county. If the Council proposes a boundary that has many more, or fewer, voters in it than the county average of **8,651**, such a variance will need to be justified on the grounds of other statutory

criteria. The more any proposal causes councillors to represent many more, or fewer, voters than the average, the more persuasive the supporting evidence will need to be. A variance from this figure of up to 10% appears to be an acceptable threshold to the LGBCE; so the *target* number of electors per county councillor therefore lies in the range **7,786 – 9,516**.

1.5 **Appendix 1** contains the latest draft County Council submission which the Committee is asked to consider and refer to Full Council.

## **2 Consultation and timetable**

2.1 In order to encourage participation and awareness, details of how to contribute to the electoral review process were posted on the Council's website with a link to the relevant LGBCE page, and via a press release. Organisations, groups and individuals could all submit proposals either to the Council for consideration when compiling its response or directly to the LGBCE. The Boundary Commission will shortly publish all proposals received.

2.2 The districts and boroughs have undertaken a great deal of detailed work in providing draft ward patterns. These have been considered carefully when constructing the CED pattern in order to achieve maximum coterminosity and to comply with the criteria outlined above.

2.3 All county councillors have been alerted to the boundary review and to the ways in which comments can be submitted either directly to the LGBCE or via the County Council's submission.

2.4 The LGBCE is expected to publish its draft recommendations in March 2016 which will be followed by a further period of public consultation lasting until June 2016. The LGBCE is expected to publish its final recommendations in September 2016. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the next scheduled elections following the completion of the review ie. May 2017 for East Sussex County Council.

## **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 Governance Committee is requested to agree the draft Council submission at appendix 1 for consideration by Full Council at its meeting on 1 December 2015.

**PHILIP BAKER**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

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### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 1) "How to propose a pattern of wards" (LGBCE)
- 2) Letter from the LGBCE to the ESCC Chief Executive dated 22 September 2015 that invites proposals for a new pattern of electoral divisions for East Sussex County Council and explains the process for making a submission
- 3) Electoral data for East Sussex provided by the LGBCE on which the review of electoral divisions is to be based.

## East Sussex electoral review (stage 2)

Submission by East Sussex County Council (**DRAFT**)

### 1 BACKGROUND

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body whose main activity is to carry out electoral reviews of principal local authorities in England. The Commission is carrying out a review of East Sussex County Council in a coordinated process alongside simultaneous reviews of all five districts and boroughs within East Sussex.

The Commission will ultimately make recommendations to Parliament on the electoral arrangements of the six local authorities in East Sussex, namely:

- 1) **Council size:** the total number of councillors elected to each authority.
- 2) The **boundaries of all wards (for district and borough councils) and divisions (for the county council)** – but not the external boundary of any of the authorities.
- 3) The **number of councillors** elected to each ward and division.
- 4) The **name of each ward and division.**

The new electoral arrangements will come into effect from the next County Council elections in May 2017; Hastings Borough Council elections in 2018 and other district and borough council elections in 2019.

#### Reason for the review

A review has been triggered because East Sussex County Council meets the Commission's intervention criteria due to electoral inequality. The Commission has found significant levels of electoral inequality between county electoral divisions. Since the last review, through development and movement of people, some county councillors now represent more, or many fewer, electors than other councillors. In addition, the Commission considers that two district/borough councils in East Sussex also meet the criteria for review. Even though only three councils have triggered a review, this review will include the county and the five districts and boroughs.

#### Council size

The first stage of this review (decision on Council size) is complete. The Council's submission for stage 1 was considered at Governance Committee on 29 June 2015 and agreed at Full Council on 14 July 2015. The LGBCE has determined that East Sussex County Council shall have 50 councillors (an increase of one) which will take effect from the next county council elections in May 2017; this is in accordance with the County Council's submission. The Council's also included the following recommendations in its stage 1 submission:

- There should be a consistent picture of single-member county electoral divisions across the county (with no multi-member divisions).
- There should be coterminosity between county electoral division and district/borough ward boundaries; under no circumstances should any county electoral division straddle a district or borough boundary.

## **2. COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION PATTERN**

This document contains the County Council's proposals on the pattern of CED boundaries for submission to the LGBCE. The principles that have been applied to in order to arrive at our submission are:

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of people.
- Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- Promoting effective and convenient local government – ensuring that the new electoral divisions can be represented effectively by their elected representatives and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

Effective and convenient local government is best achieved where district ward and county division boundaries are coterminous; and parish and town councils are not split between county divisions or district wards. East Sussex district and county councillors agree that split electoral areas and split parishes increase the challenges involved in creating and maintaining effective local relationships.

County councillors have highlighted strong concerns and challenges in managing in the existing two-member divisions. Particular problems have occurred in case load management in two-member divisions with casework being unfairly distributed and confusion with liaison with parish/town councils. We consider that the boundary review should seek to eliminate two-member divisions whilst retaining the same total number of county councillors.

The key elements of the profile of East Sussex relevant to this review are contained in the authority's submission in respect of Stage 1 of the process.

### **Developing this submission**

A 'Reference Group' of Members representing each of the political groups on East Sussex County Council met on 10 November 2015 to collate evidence and their experience to formulate an initial draft Council submission on CED patterns.

The draft submission was further considered by Governance Committee on 19 November 2015 and submitted to Full Council on 1 December 2015.

## **3. SUBMISSION**

The submissions with recommended CED patterns in respect of each borough and district of East Sussex are as follows:

# Eastbourne

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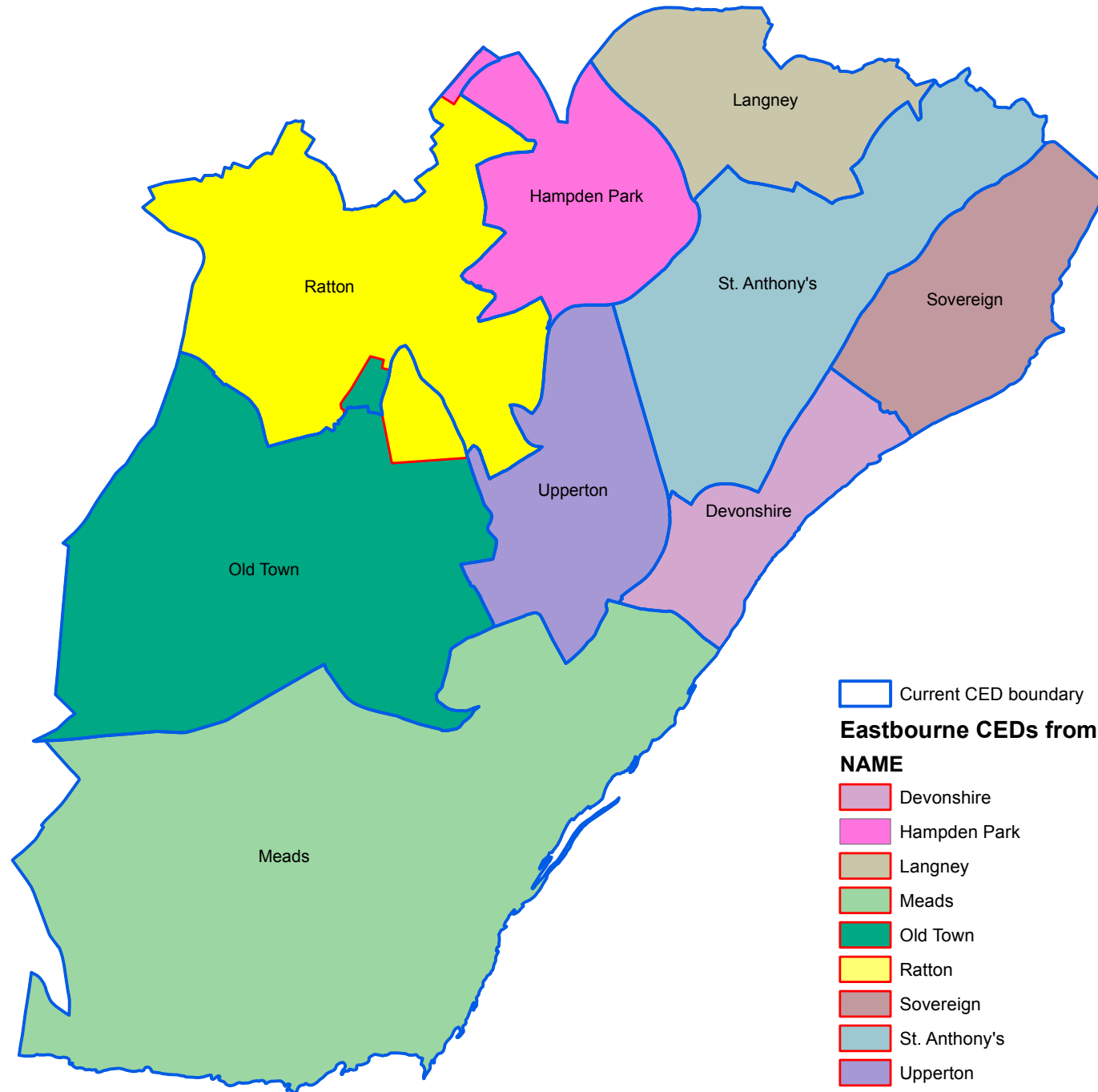


# Eastbourne

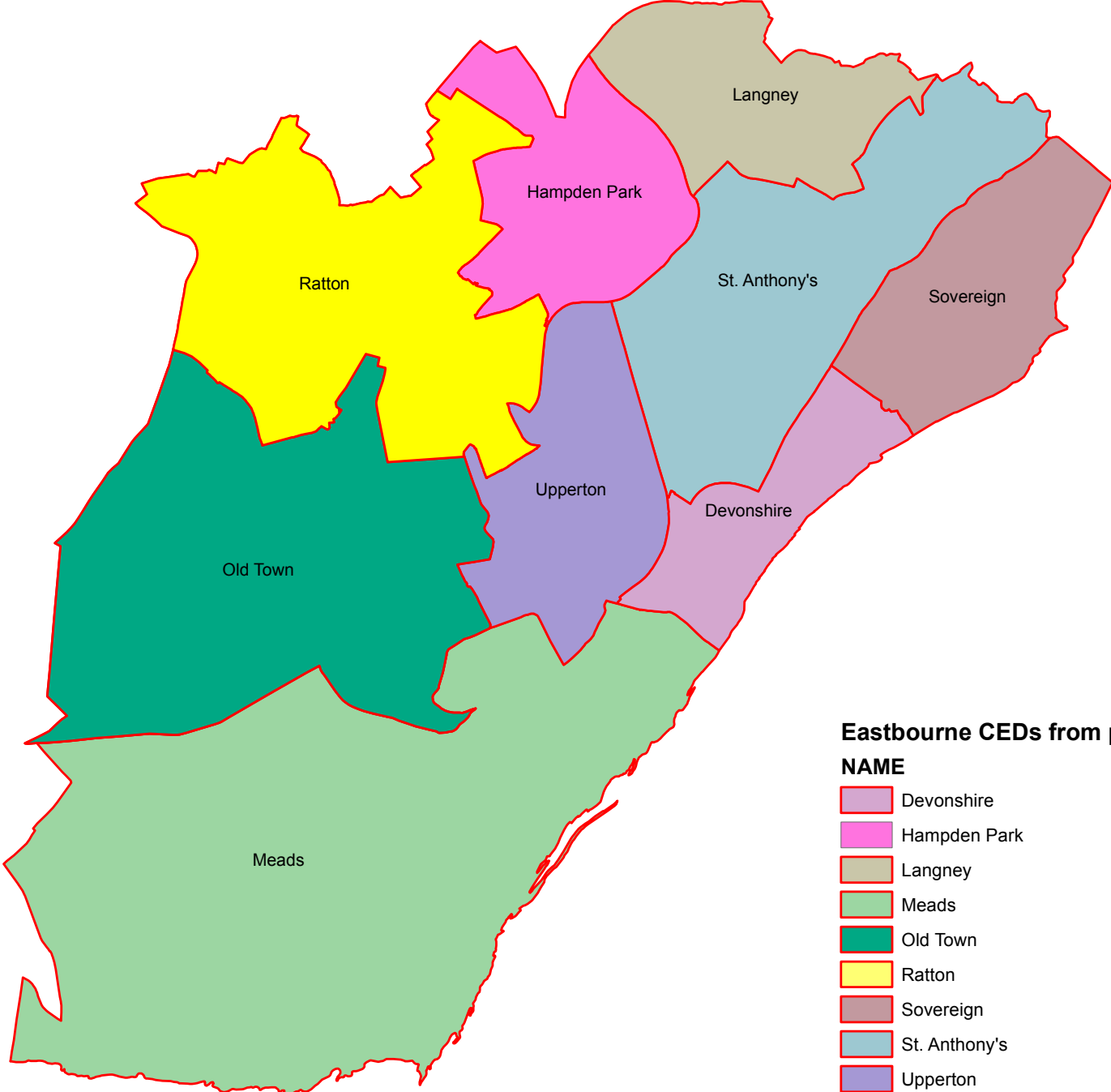
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
	Devonshire	Existing ward/CED	9,006	4.1%	
	Hampden Park	Existing ward/CED plus north-east strip of Ratton	7,865	-9.1%	
	Langney	Existing ward/CED	8,197	-5.2%	
	Meads	Existing ward/CED	8,566	-1.0%	
	Old Town	Existing ward/CED plus southern section of Ratton less northern section (to Ratton)	8,494	-1.8%	
	Ratton	Existing ward/CED less north-east strip (to Hampden Park); less section in south (to Old Town) plus northern section of Old Town	8,052	-6.9%	
	St Anthony's	Existing ward/CED	8,715	0.7%	
	Sovereign	Existing ward/CED	9,517	10.0%	
	Upperton	Existing ward/CED	8,420	-2.7%	
	<b>No. of county councillors</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTORS (EASTBOURNE)</b>	<b>76,832</b>		
	<b>9</b>	<b>Average electorate per County Councillor</b>	<b>8,537</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	

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# Eastbourne BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



# Eastbourne BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



### Eastbourne CEDs from proposed wards

#### NAME

- Devonshire
- Hampden Park
- Langney
- Meads
- Old Town
- Ratton
- Sovereign
- St. Anthony's
- Upperton

# Hastings

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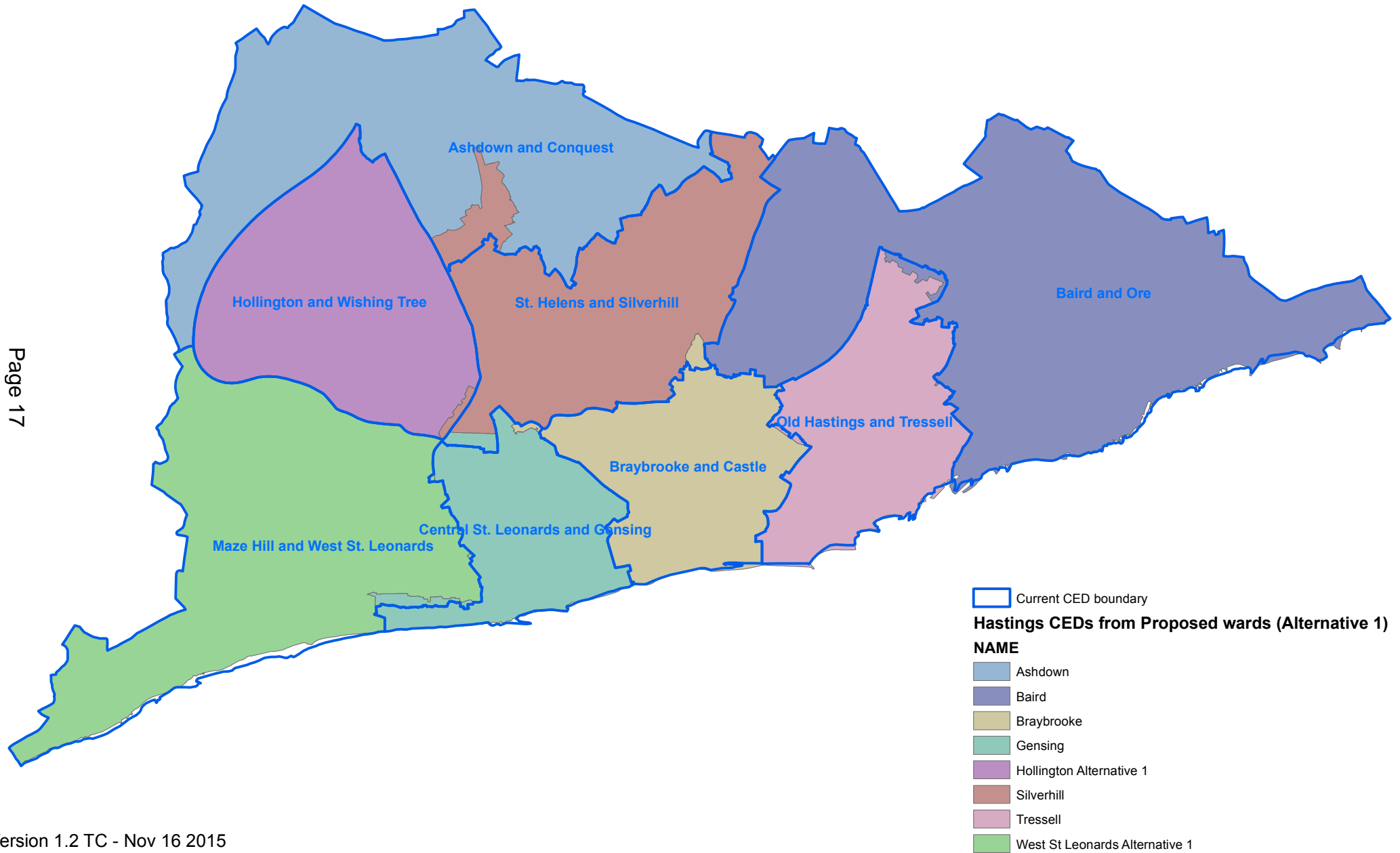
# Hastings

CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
	Ashdown and Conquest	Existing Ashdown ward / Conquest ward	8,705	0.6%	
	Baird and Ore	Existing Baird ward / Ore ward	7,949	-8.1%	
	Braybrooke and Castle	Existing Braybrooke ward / Castle ward	7,726	-10.7%	
	Central St Leonards and Gensing	Existing Central St Leonards ward / Gensing ward	8,050	-6.9%	
	Hollington and Wishing Tree	Hollington ward / Wishing Tree ward	8,775	1.4%	Current Hollington/Wishing Tree boundary subject to proposed changes by Hastings Borough Council on 24 November 2015
	Maze Hill and West St Leonards	Maze Hill ward / West St Leonards ward	8,597	-0.6%	Current Maze Hill/West St Leonards boundary subject to proposed changes by Hastings Borough Council on 24 November 2015
	St Helens and Silverhill	Existing St Helens ward / Silverhill ward	8,221	-5.0%	
	Old Hastings and Tressell	Old Hastings ward / Tressell ward	8,065	-6.8%	
	<b>No. of county councillors</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTORS (HASTINGS)</b>	<b>66,088</b>		
	<b>8</b>	<b>Average electorate per County Councillor</b>	<b>8,261</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	

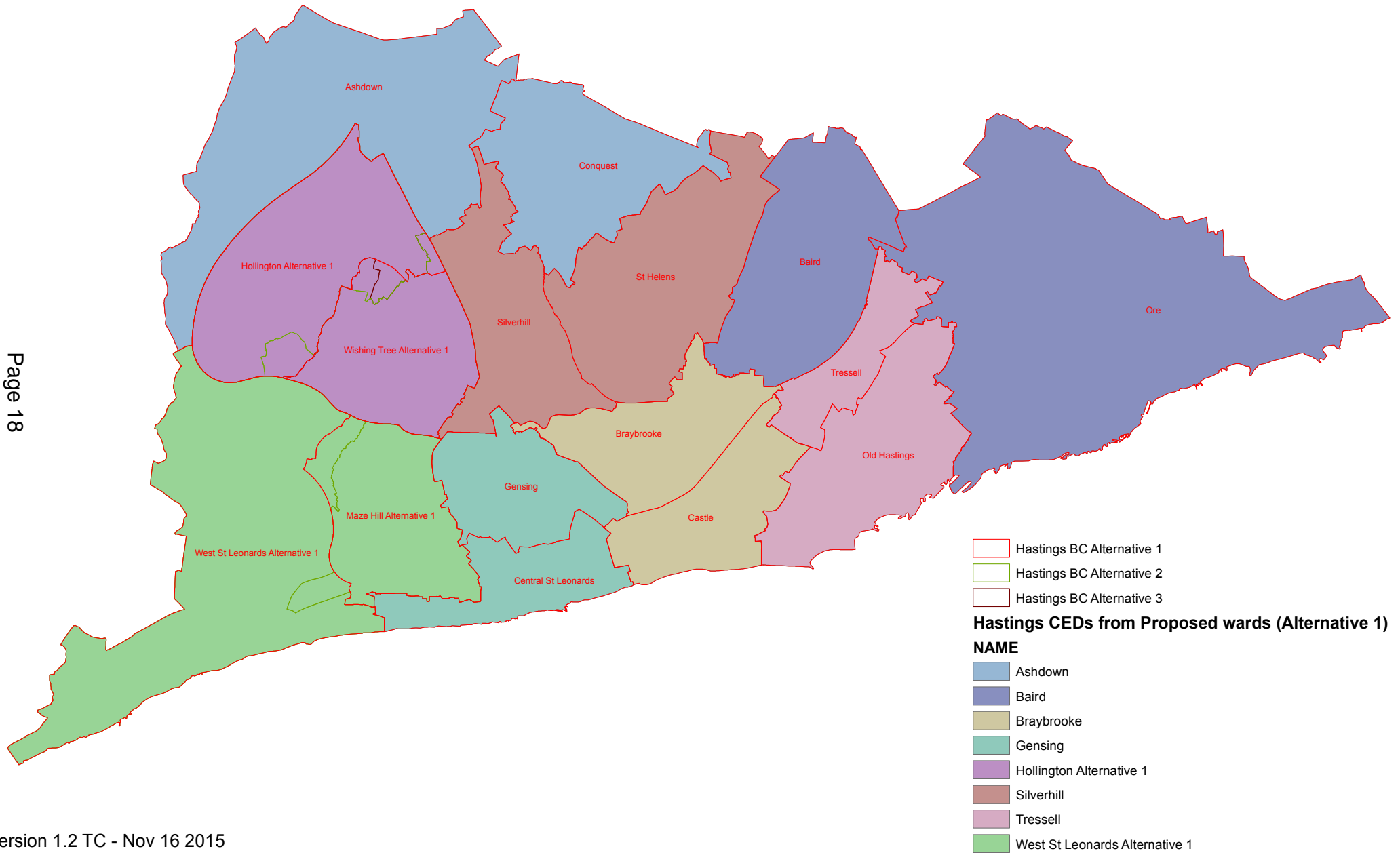
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# Hastings BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



# Hastings BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



**Lewes**

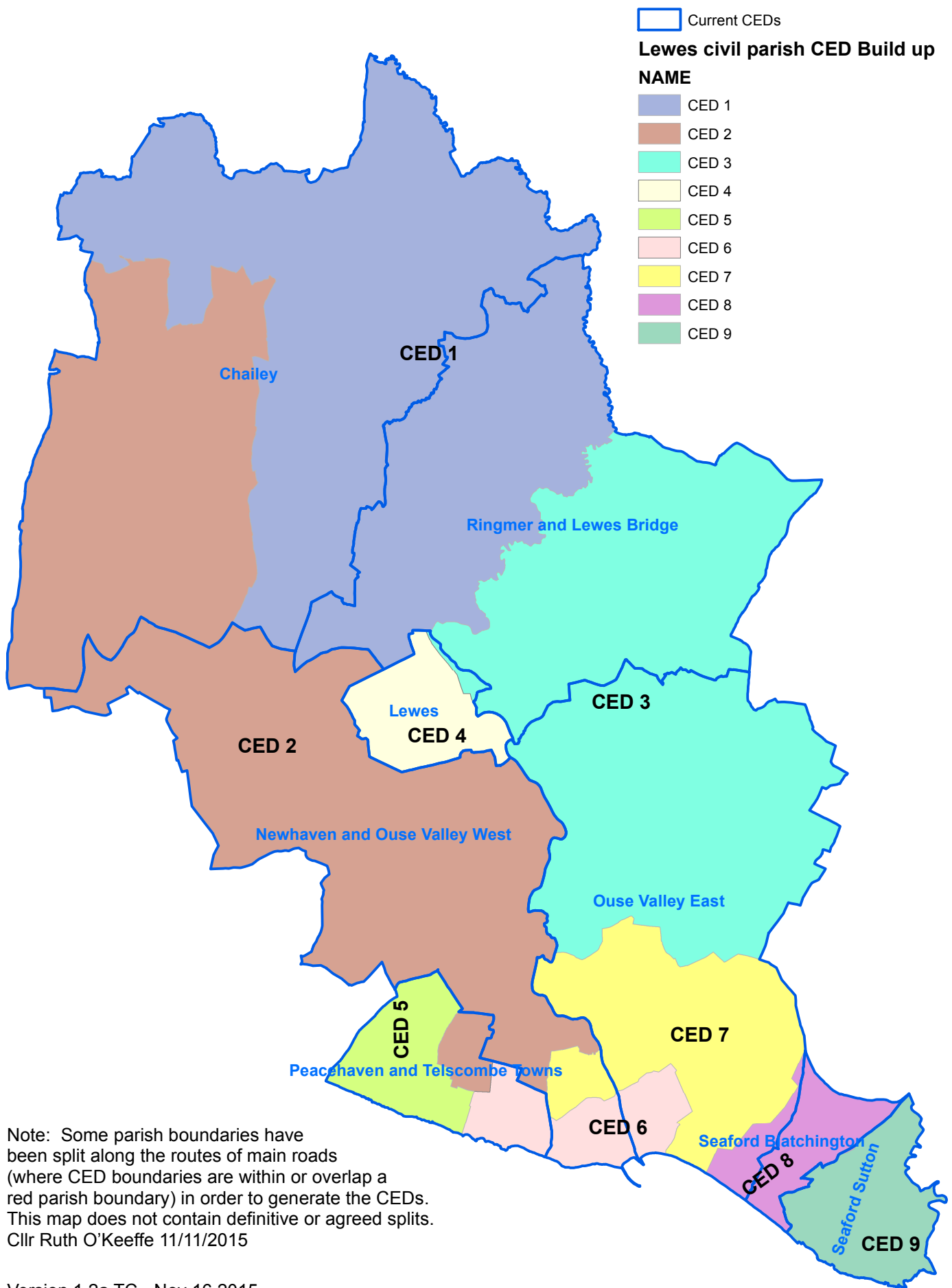
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# Lewes

CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
CED1		Chailey Parish	2,755		
		Wivelsfield Parish	2,037		
		Newick Parish	2,142		
		East Chiltington Parish	392		
		St John (without) Parish	59		
		Barcombe Parish	1,235		
		Hamsey Parish	518		
		<b>CED1 Total</b>	<b>9,137</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	
CED2		Ditchling Parish	1,913		
		Westmeston Parish	261		
		Plumpton Parish	1,422		
		Streat Parish	157		
		Falmer Parish	154		
		Iford Parish	172		
		Kingston Parish	776		
		Piddinghoe Parish	224		
		Rodmell Parish	371		
		St Ann (without) Parish	83		
		Southease Parish	42		
		Peacehaven North proposed new ward	3,723		
		<b>CED2 total</b>	<b>9,298</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	
CED3		Beddingham Parish	203		
		Firle Parish	270		
		Glynde Parish	192		
		Lewes Bridge proposed new ward	3,939		
		Ringmer Parish	3,970		
		Part of Lewes Castle proposed new ward	820		Lewes Castle 4044
		<b>CED3 total</b>	<b>9,394</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	

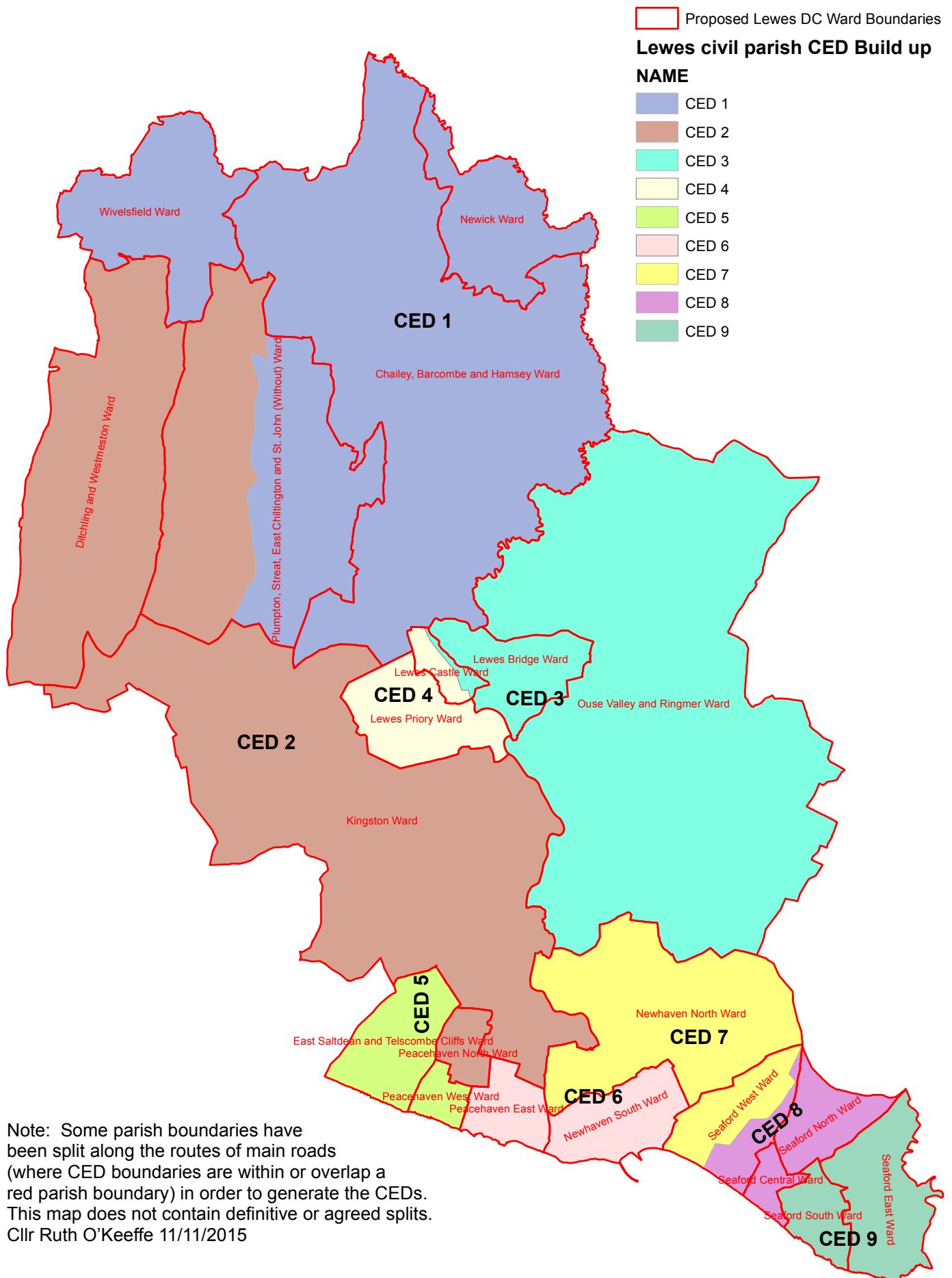
CED4		Lewes Priory proposed new ward	6,090		
		Part of Lewes Castle proposed new ward	3,224		Lewes Castle 4044 less 820
		<b>CED4 total</b>	<b>9,314</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	
CED5		East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs proposed new ward	5,840		
		Peacehaven West proposed new ward	3,760		
		<b>CED5 total</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	
CED6		Peacehaven East proposed new ward	4,126		
		Newhaven South proposed new ward	5,695		
		<b>CED6 total</b>	<b>9,821</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	
CED7		Newhaven North proposed new ward	5,277		
		Seaford West proposed new wards (part of)	2,927		Seaford West 3,903 (75%)
		<b>CED7 total</b>	<b>8,204</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	
CED8		Seaford East proposed new ward	4,019		
		Seaford North proposed new ward	4,150		
		<b>CED8 total</b>	<b>8,169</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	
CED9		Seaford Central proposed new ward	4,075		
		Seaford South proposed new ward	3,735		
		Seaford West proposed new wards (part of)	976		Seaford West 3,903 (25%)
		<b>CED9 total</b>	<b>8,786</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	
	<b>No. of county councillors</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTORS (LEWES)</b>	<b>81,724</b>		
	<b>9</b>	<b>Average electorate per County councillor</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	

# Lewes DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



Note: Some parish boundaries have been split along the routes of main roads (where CED boundaries are within or overlap a red parish boundary) in order to generate the CEDs. This map does not contain definitive or agreed splits.  
 Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe 11/11/2015

# Lewes DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



Note: Some parish boundaries have been split along the routes of main roads (where CED boundaries are within or overlap a red parish boundary) in order to generate the CEDs. This map does not contain definitive or agreed splits.  
 Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe 11/11/2015



**Rother**

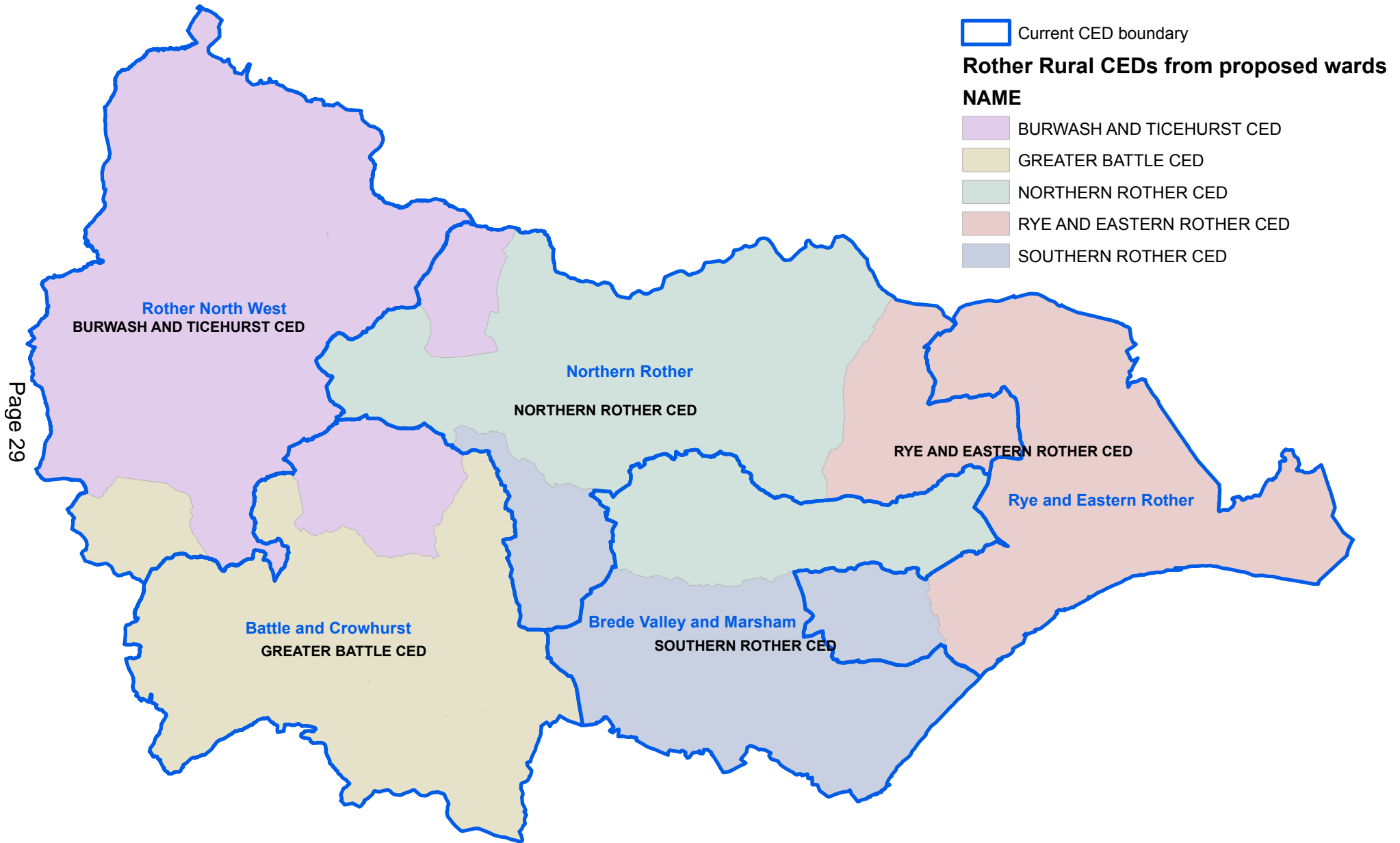
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# Rother

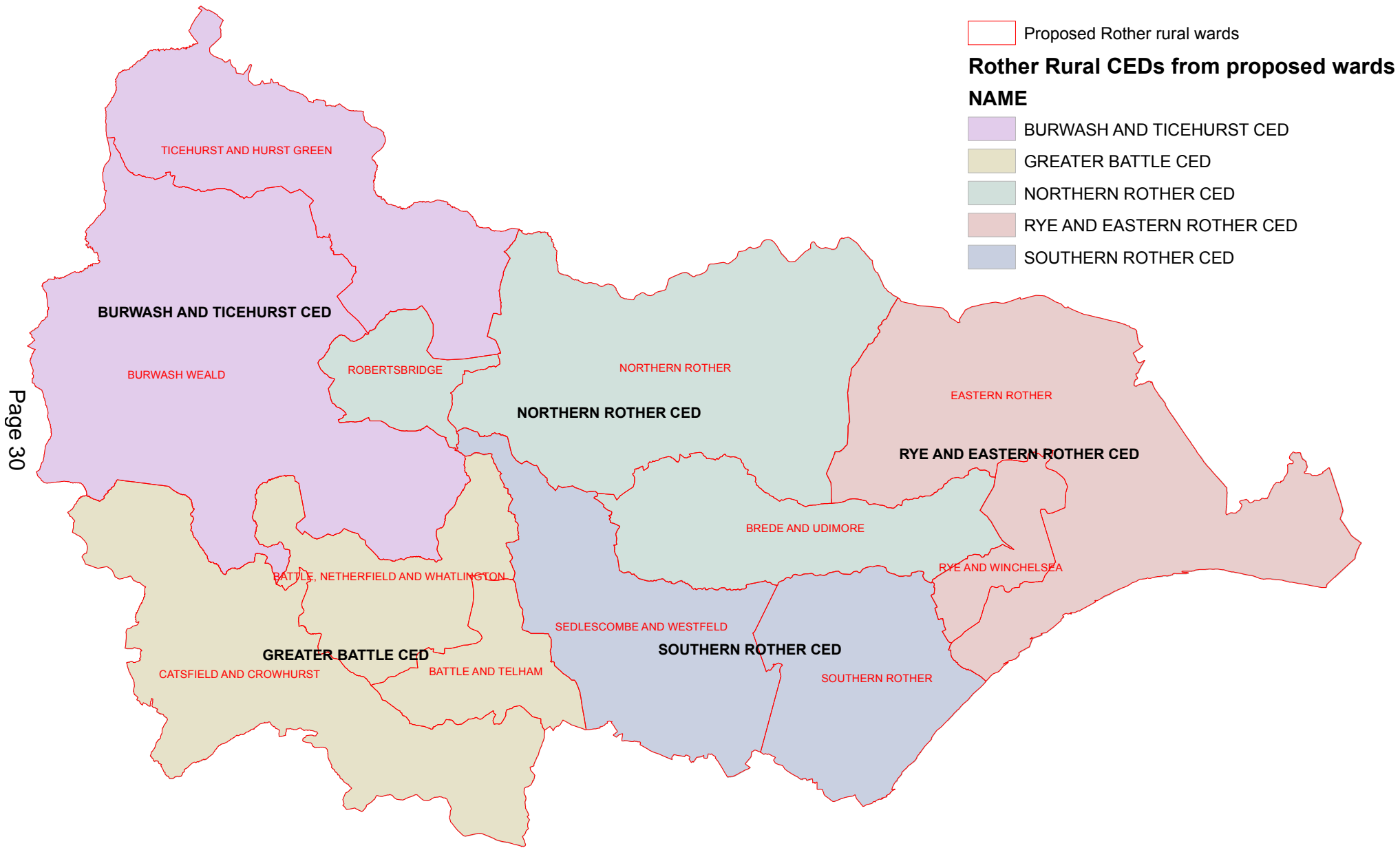
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
CED1		5. Burwash Weald + 9. Hurst Green & Ticehurst proposed new wards	8,133	-6.0%	
CED2		2. Battle & Telham + 3. Battle, Netherfield and Whatlington + 4. Catsfield & Crowhurst proposed new wards	8,061	-6.8%	
CED3		6. Northern Rother + 7. Brede & Udimore + 8. Robertsbridge proposed new wards	8,392	-3.0%	
CED4		10. Sedlescombe + 11. Southern Rother proposed new wards	8,061	-6.8%	
CED5	Rye and Eastern Rother	1. Eastern Rother + 12. Rye & Winchelsea proposed new wards	8,064	-6.8%	
CED6	Bexhill West	St Marks + Kewhurst +	8,014	-7.4%	Various options for splitting in order to create four CEDs from nine wards.
CED7	Bexhill South	Collington + Central +	7,887	-8.8%	
CED8	Bexhill East	Pebsham & St. Michael's + Sackville	7,945	-8.2%	
CED9	Bexhill North	Sidley +	4,618		
		Old Town & Worsham	3,857		
		St Stephen's	3,999		
	<b>No. of county councillors</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTORS (ROTHER)</b>	<b>77,031</b>		
	<b>9</b>	<b>Average electorate per County councillor</b>	<b>8,559</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	

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# Rother DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



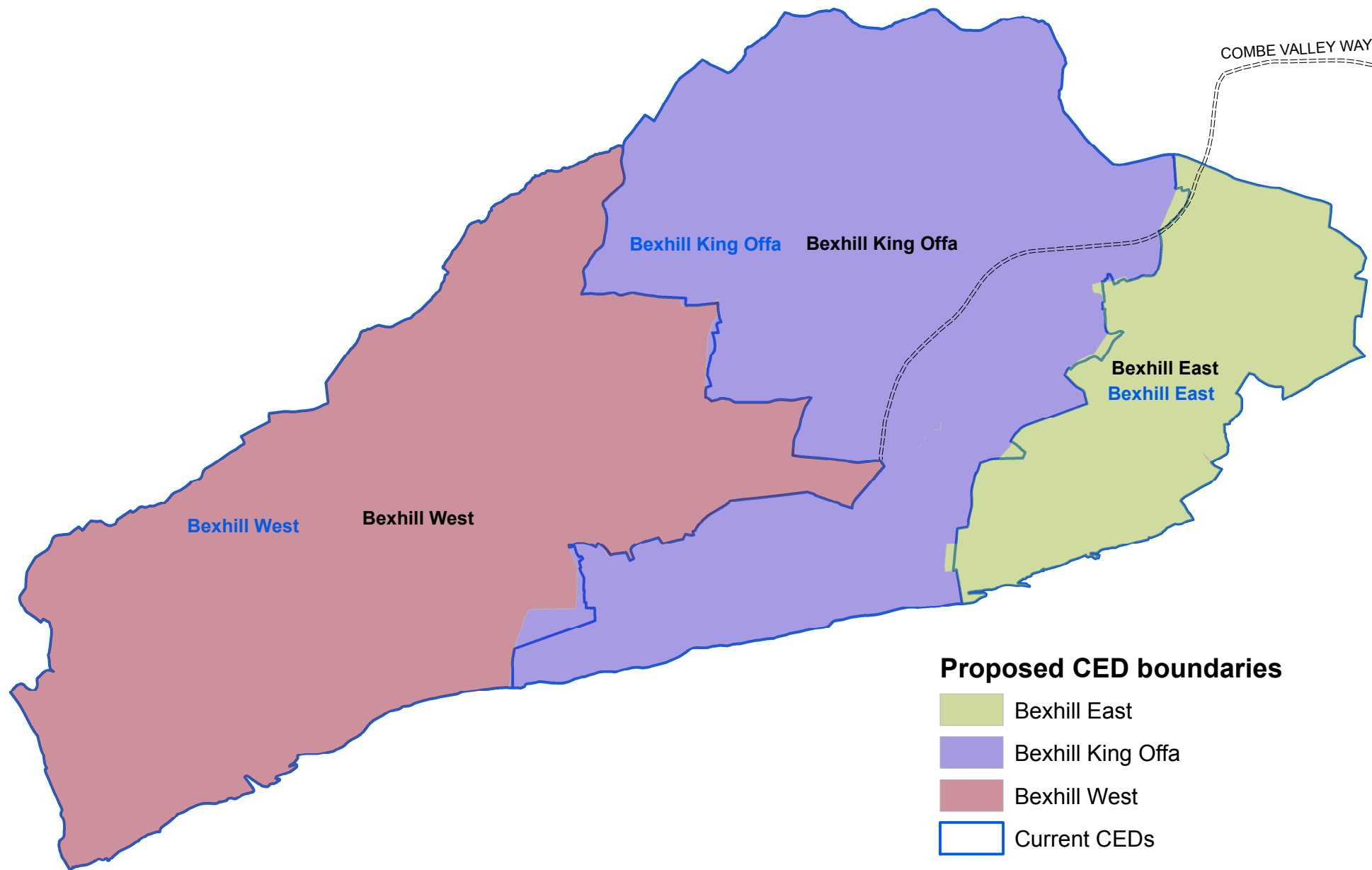
# Rother DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



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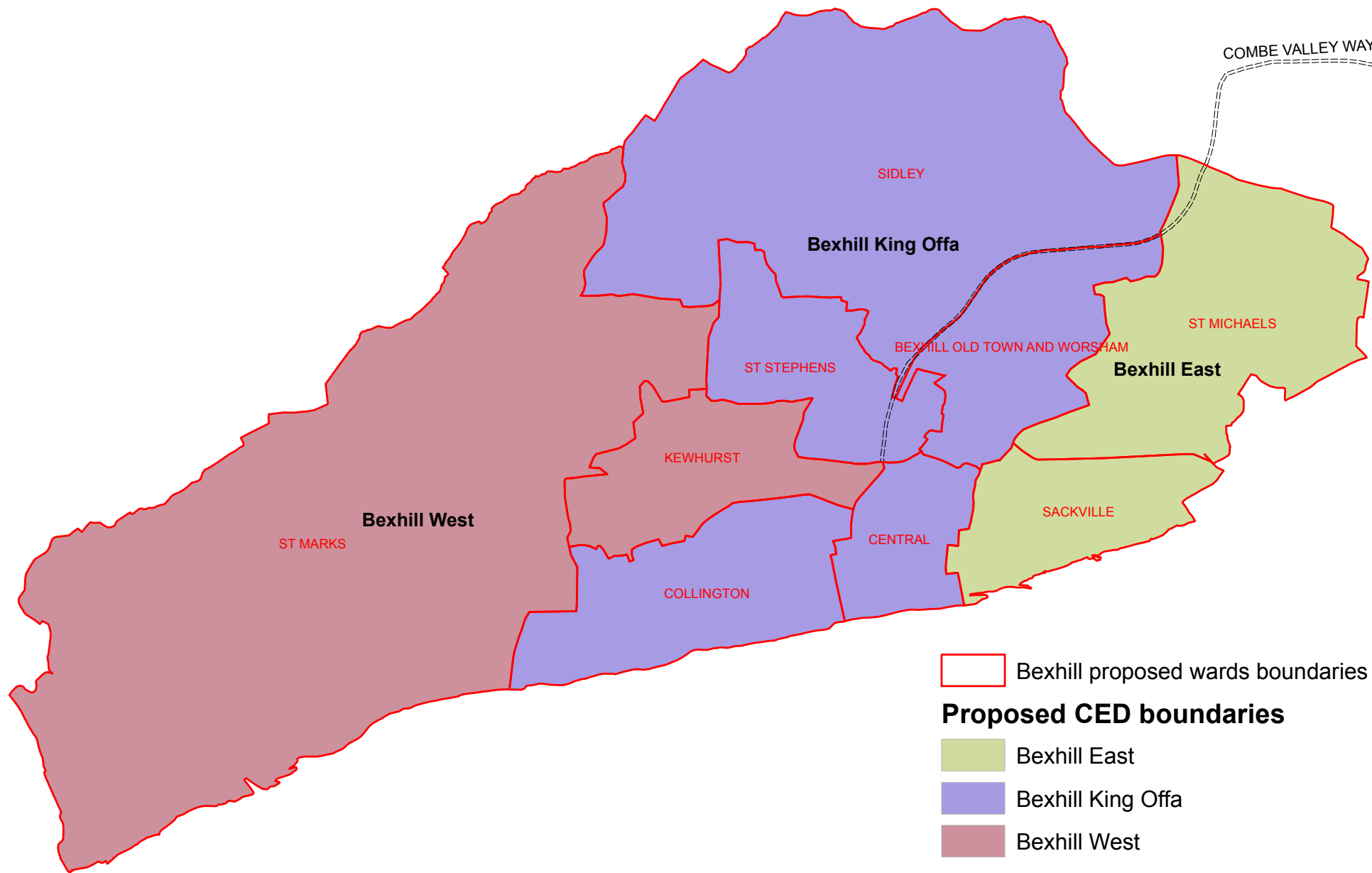
# Rother Bexhill – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CED

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# Rother Bexhill – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards

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# Wealden

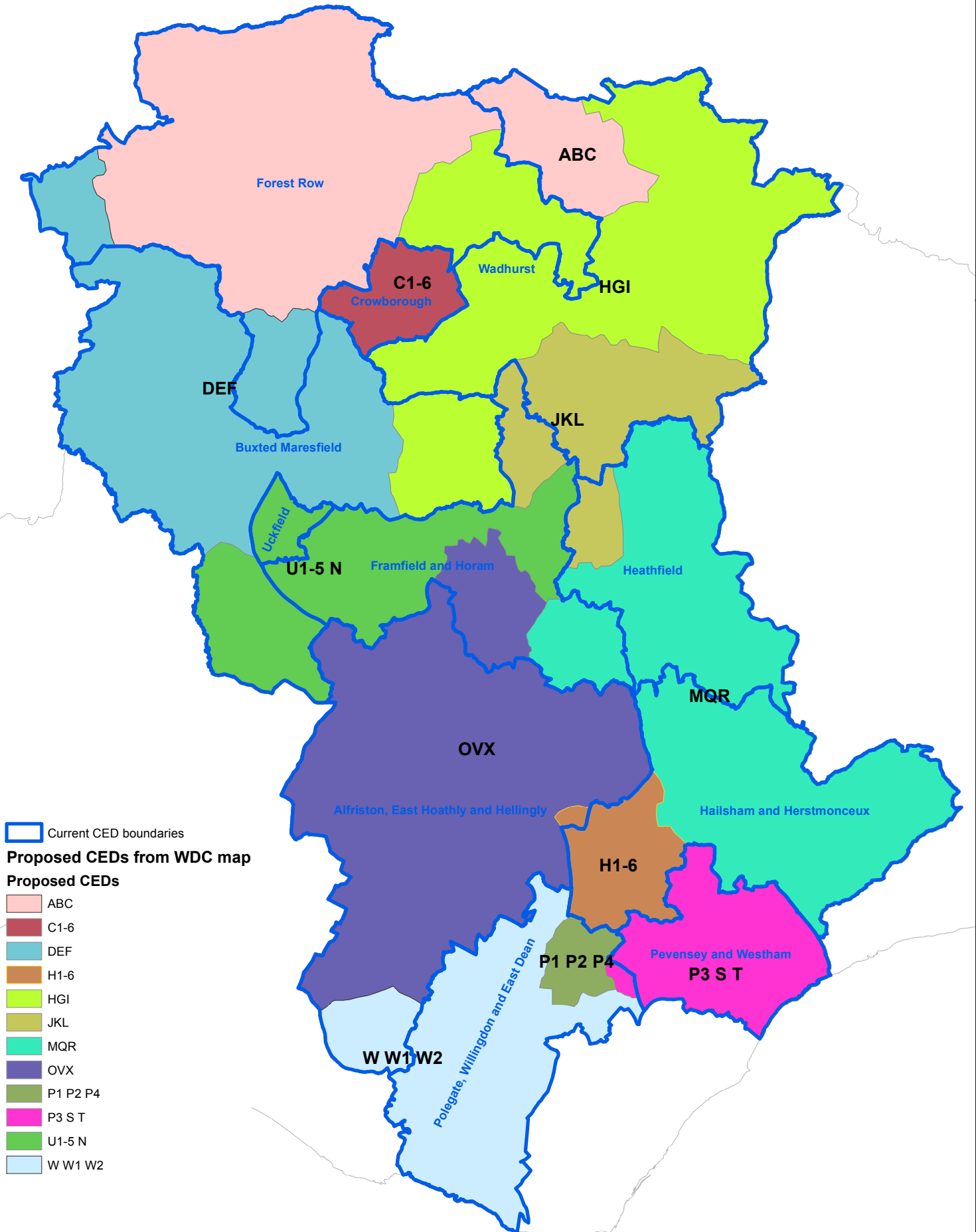
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# Wealden

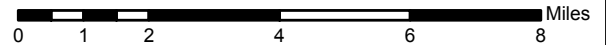
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
W-CED1		ABC	8,780	1.5%	
W-CED2		DEF	8,838	2.2%	
W-CED3		GHI	8,168	-5.6%	
W-CED4		C1-3	8,901	2.9%	
W-CED5		C4-6	8,901	2.9%	
W-CED6		JKL	8,628	-0.3%	
W-CED7		U12 + N	8,508	-1.7%	
W-CED8		U345	8,337	-3.6%	
W-CED9		MQR	8,461	-2.2%	
W-CED10		OVX	8,309	-4.0%	
W-CED11		STP3	8,633	-0.2%	
W-CED12		P1P2P4	8,875	2.6%	
W-CED13		W+W1+W2	8,463	-2.2%	
W-CED14		H1-6/2	9,144	5.7%	
W-CED15		H1-6/3	9,144	5.7%	
Total					
	<b>No. of county councillors</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTORS (HASTINGS)</b>	<b>130,090</b>		
	<b>15</b>	<b>Average electorate per County Councillor</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	

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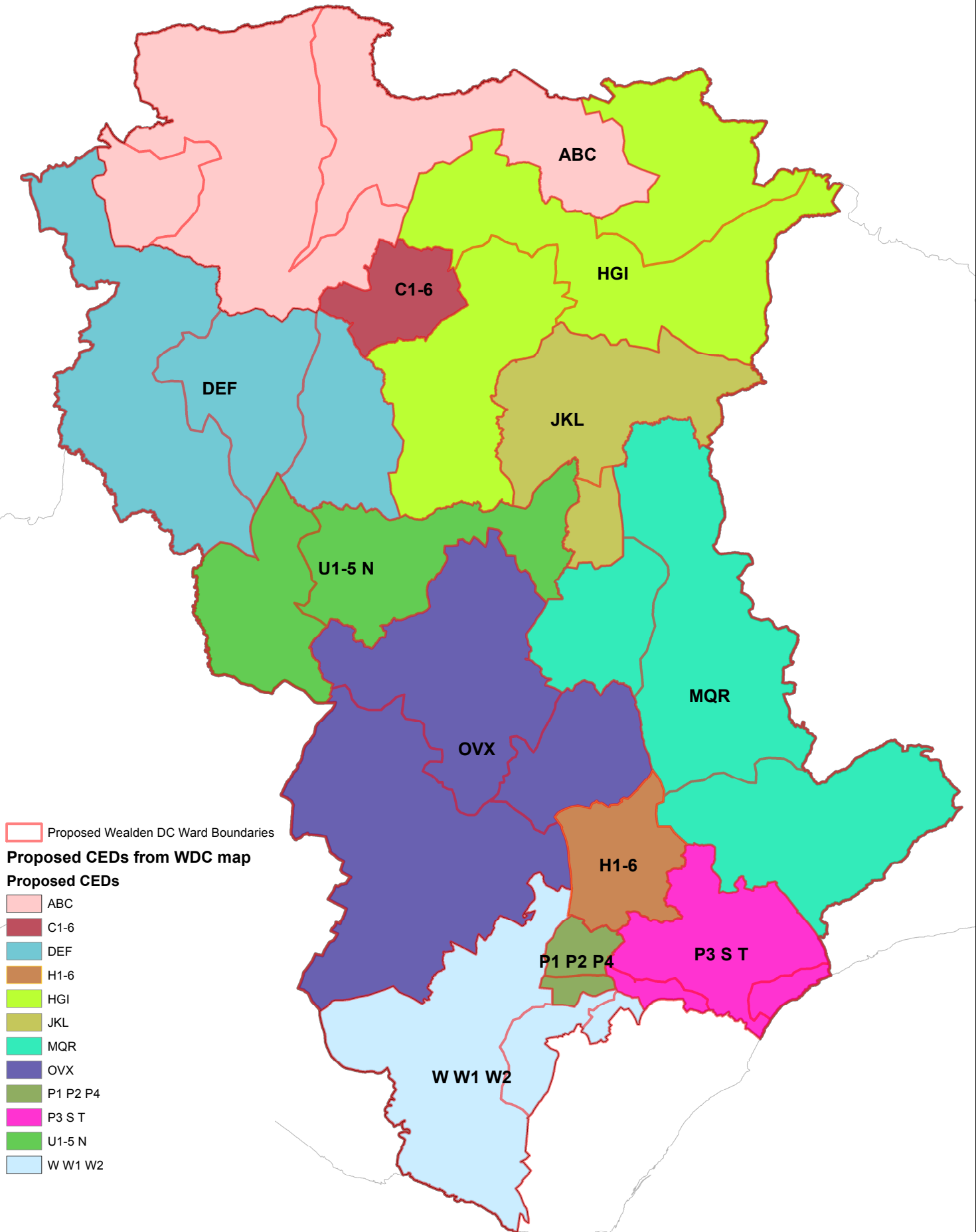
# Wealden DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



- Current CED boundaries**
- Proposed CEDs from WDC map**
- Proposed CEDs**
- ABC
  - C1-6
  - DEF
  - H1-6
  - HGI
  - JKL
  - MQR
  - OVX
  - P1 P2 P4
  - P3 S T
  - U1-5 N
  - W W1 W2



# Wealden DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



Proposed Wealden DC Ward Boundaries

### Proposed CEDs from WDC map

#### Proposed CEDs

- ABC
- C1-6
- DEF
- H1-6
- HGI
- JKL
- MQR
- OVX
- P1 P2 P4
- P3 S T
- U1-5 N
- W W1 W2