



County Council – 1 December 2015

Please find attached item 5 (Report of the Governance Committee) for consideration at the County Council meeting being held on 1 December 2015. This item was marked as to follow on the agenda published on 23 November 2015.

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee met on 19 November 2015. Attendance:

Councillor Glazier (Chair)
Councillors Daniel, Elkin, Howson and Tutt

1. County Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on county electoral division boundaries

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 by the County 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 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 county electoral division (CED) boundaries for submission to the LGBCE. The LGBCE has published a guide on how to propose electoral division and ward patterns. 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 The Governance Committee has considered a draft County Council submission which is attached as Appendix A.

Consultation and timetable

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 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 the County Council.

1.11 The Committee **recommends** the County Council to:

- ✧ 1) agree the document circulated as Appendix A as the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the county electoral division patterns for each of the district and borough areas in East Sussex

19 November 2015

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)

East Sussex electoral review

Submission by East Sussex County Council (Stage 2) **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:

- Council size: the total number of councillors elected to each authority.
- 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.
- The number of councillors elected to each ward and division.
- 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 to be allocated to Wealden) which will take effect from the next county council elections in May 2017; this is in accordance with the County Council's previous submission. The Council has 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 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.

The County Council considers that 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.

A draft submission was agreed by Governance Committee on 19 November 2015 and submitted to Full Council on 1 December 2015 which considered a number of amendments.

3. SUBMISSION

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

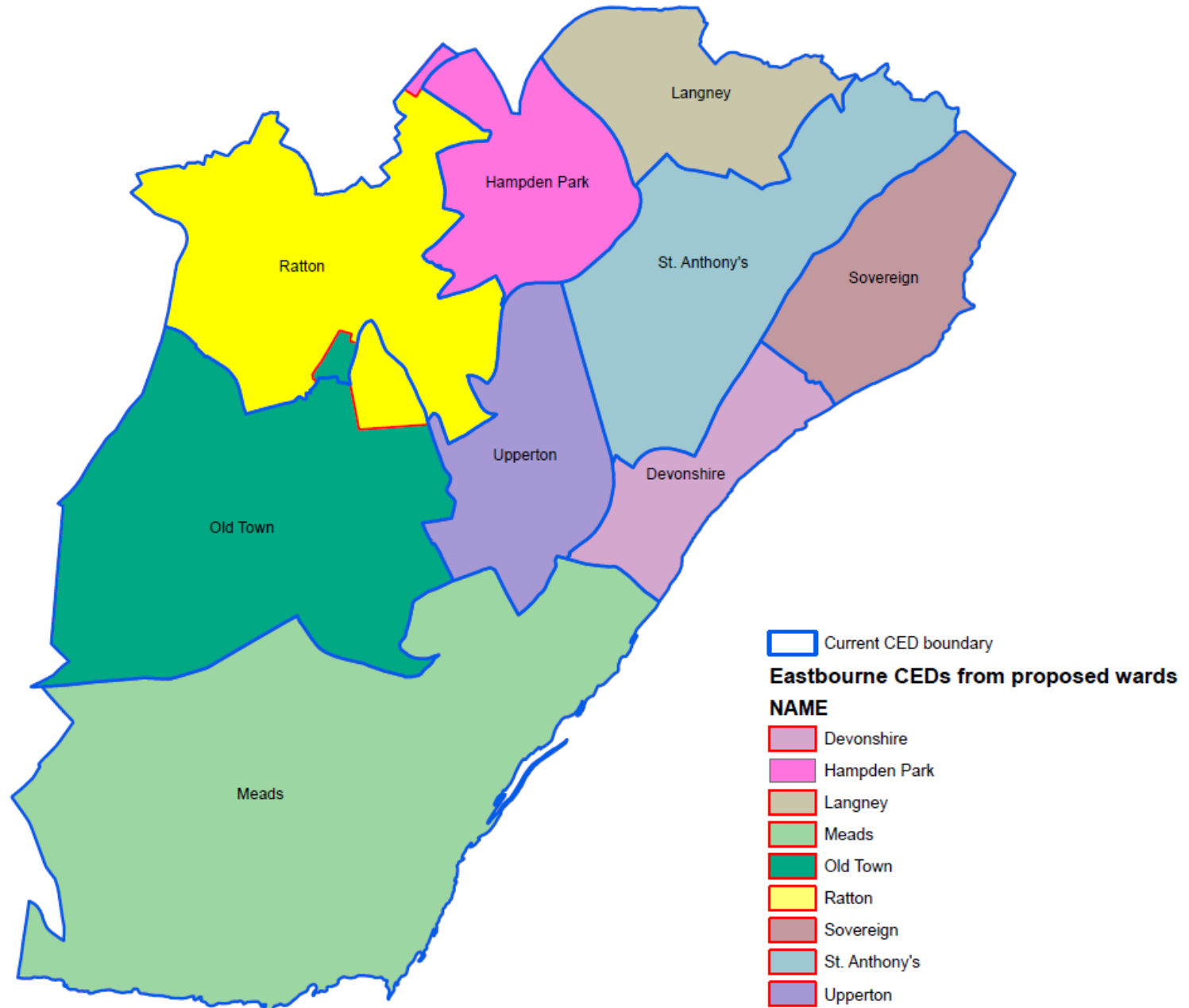
EASTBOURNE

Currently wards and CEDs are coterminous in Eastbourne and we would wish to see this principle preserved in future. The Council endorses the minor changes to ward boundaries proposed by Eastbourne Borough Council at its meeting on 18 November 2015 as reflected in the following table and charts.

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%	
Page 7	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%	
	No. of county councillors	TOTAL ELECTORS (EASTBOURNE)	76,832		
	9	Average electorate per County Councillor	8,537	-1.3%	

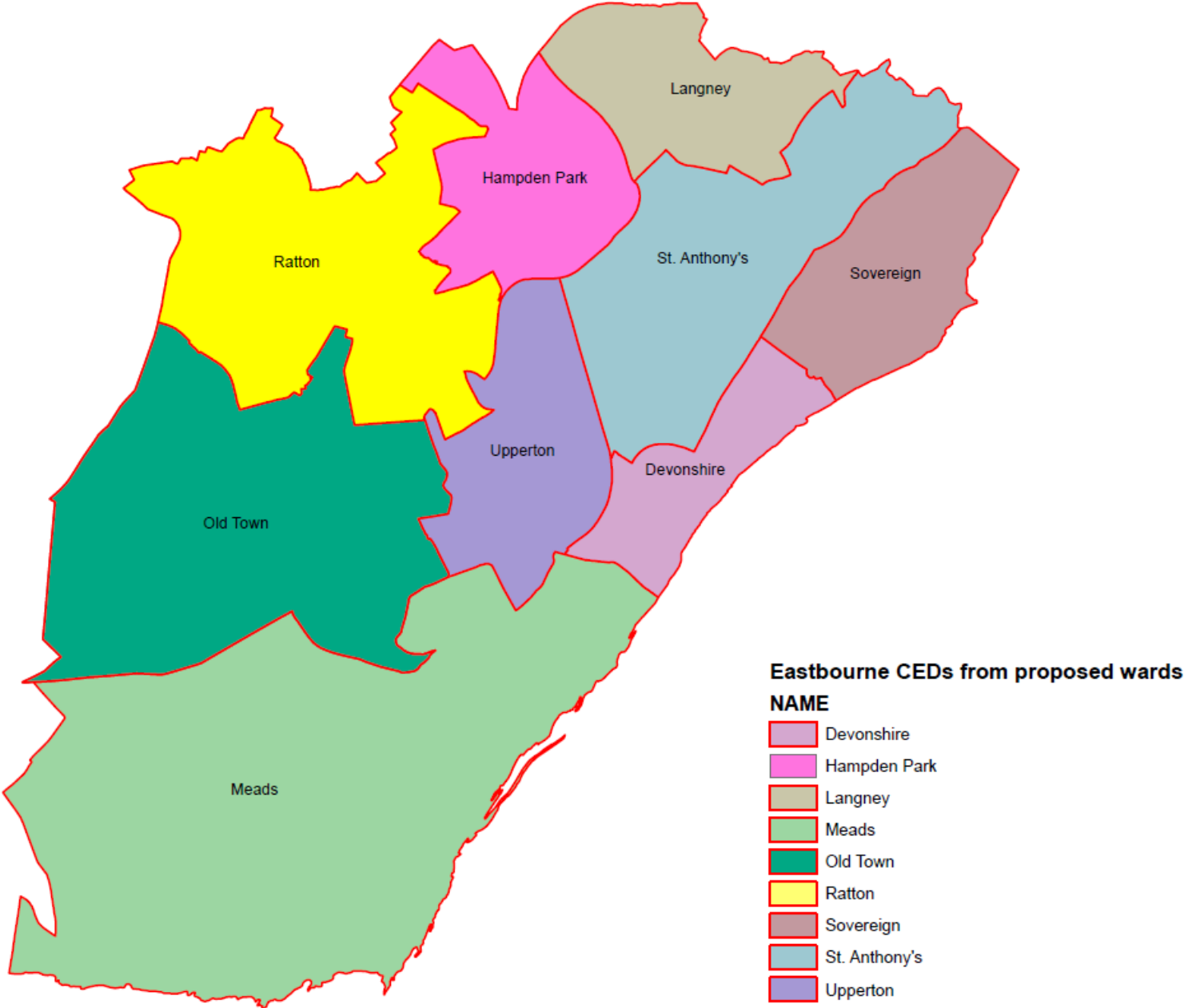
Eastbourne BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs

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Eastbourne BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards

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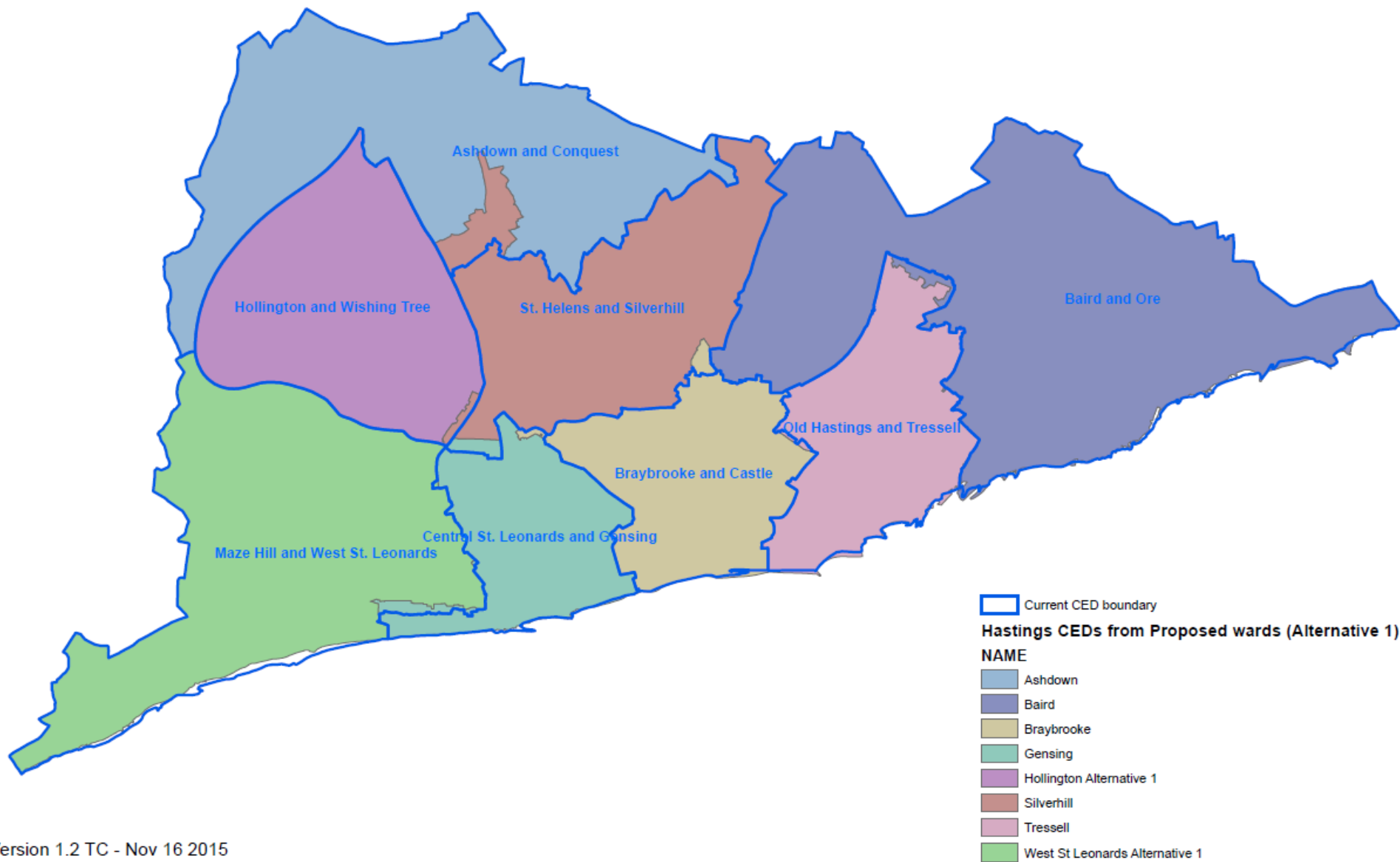
HASTINGS

Currently each CED encompasses 2 wards and we would wish to see this pattern preserved in future. The Council endorses the changes to ward boundaries being considered by Hastings Borough Council at its meeting on 25 November 2015 as reflected in the following table and charts. The detailed boundary proposals are available from the Hastings Borough Council website.

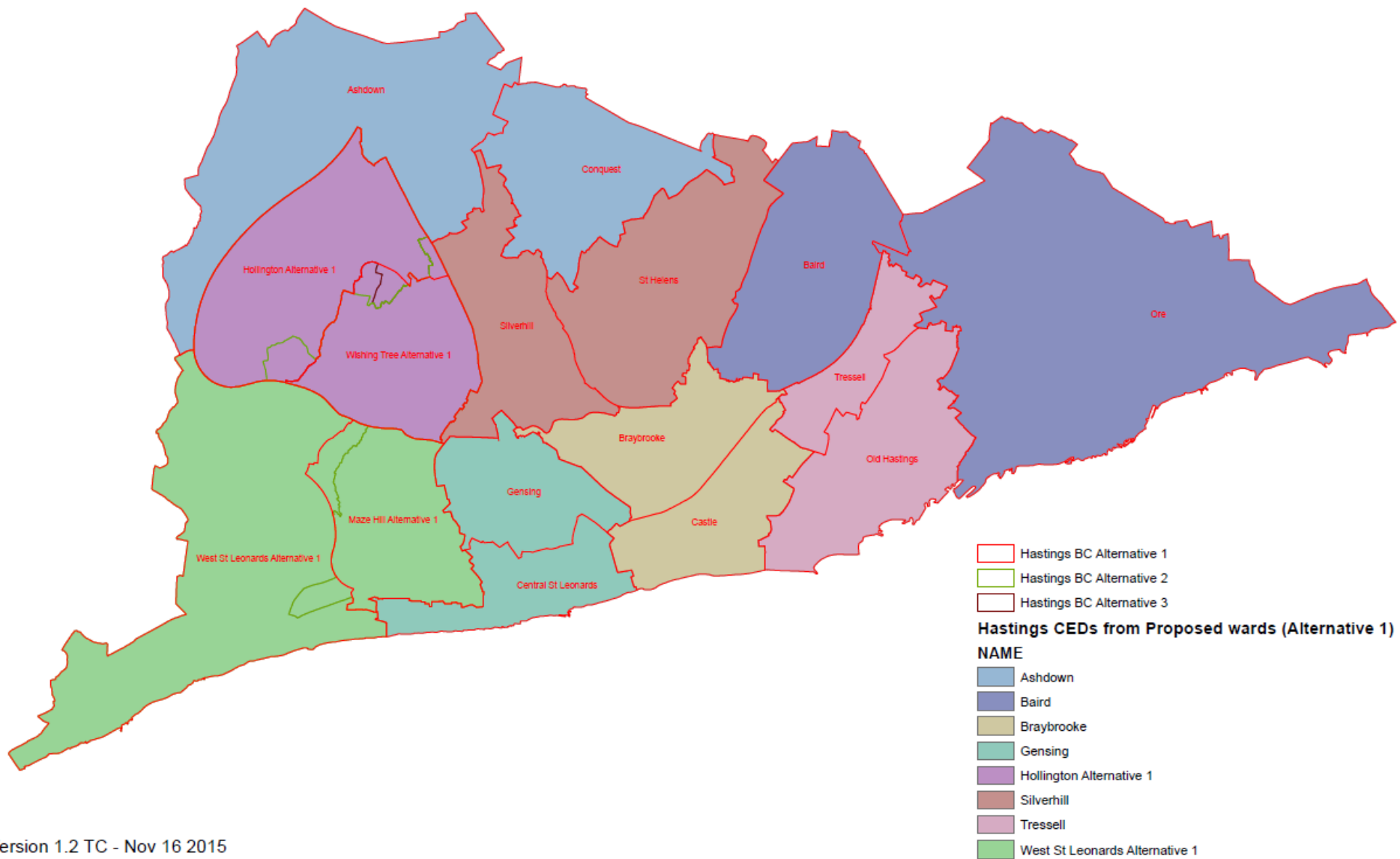
Hastings					
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
	Ashdown and Conquest	Existing Ashdown ward / Conquest ward	8,705	0.6%	
	Baird and Ore	Existing Baird ward / Ore ward	7,949	-8.1%	
	Braybrooke and Castle	Existing Braybrooke ward / Castle ward	7,726	-10.7%	
	Central St Leonards and Gensing	Existing Central St Leonards ward / Gensing ward	8,050	-6.9%	
Page 10	Hollington and Wishing Tree	Hollington ward / Wishing Tree ward	8,775	1.4%	Alternative proposals for the Hollington/Wishing Tree boundary are to be submitted to the LGBCE by Hastings Borough Council. There is no impact on proposed CED boundary.
	Maze Hill and West St Leonards	Maze Hill ward / West St Leonards ward	8,597	-0.6%	Alternative proposals for the Maze Hill/West St Leonards boundary are to be submitted to the LGBCE by Hastings Borough Council. There is no impact on proposed CED boundary.
	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%	
	No. of county councillors	TOTAL ELECTORS (HASTINGS)	66,088		
	8	Average electorate per County Councillor	8,261	-4.5%	

Hastings BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs

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Hastings BC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



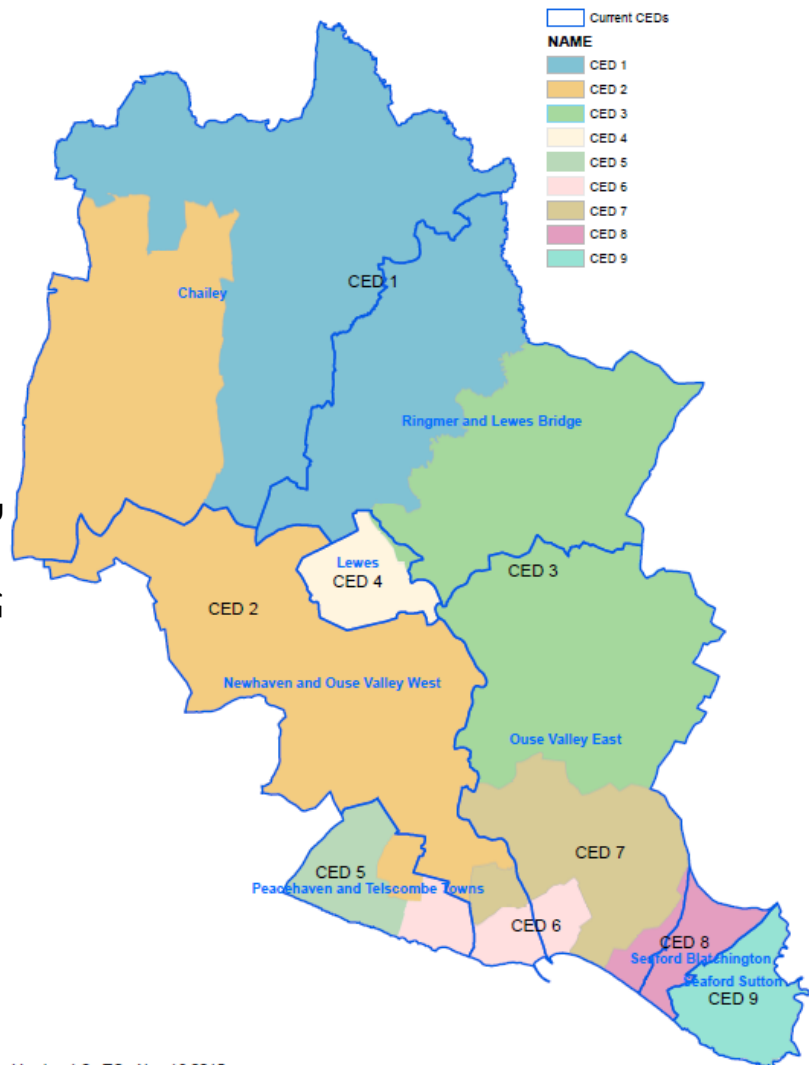
LEWES

Attempts have been made to identify a logical pattern of CEDs that aligns with the ward boundary pattern proposed by Lewes District Council. However, it has proved impossible to achieve 100% coterminosity. Attempts have been made to use parish boundaries as an alternative but some parish boundaries have had to be split also. The pattern reflected in the following table and maps achieves an electorally balanced set of divisions.

CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate	Variance	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		
		CED1 Total	9,137	5.6%	
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		
		CED2 total	9,298	7.5%	
CED3		Beddingham Parish	203		
		Firle Parish	270		
		Glynde Parish	192		
		Lewes Bridge proposed new ward	3,939		
		Ringmer Parish	3,970		

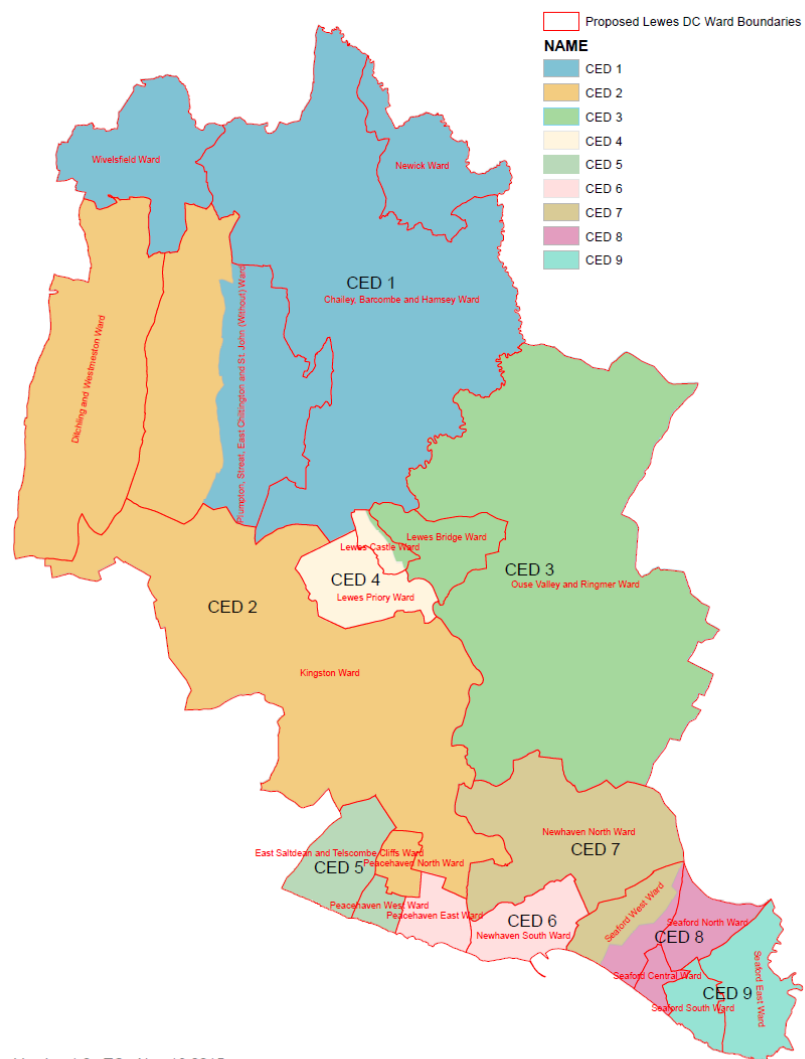
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate	Variance	Notes
		Part of Lewes Castle proposed new ward	820		Lewes Castle 4,044
		CED3 total	9,394	8.6%	
CED4		Lewes Priory proposed new ward	6,090		
		Part of Lewes Castle proposed new ward	3,224		Lewes Castle 4,044 less 820
		CED4 total	9,314	7.7%	
CED5		East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs proposed new	5,840		
		Peacehaven West proposed new ward	3,760		
		CED5 total	9,600	11.0%	
CED6		Peacehaven East proposed new ward	4,126		
		Newhaven South proposed new ward	5,695		
		CED6 total	9,821	13.5%	
CED7		Newhaven North proposed new ward	5,277		
		Seaford West proposed new wards (part of)	2,927		Seaford West 3,903 (75%)
		CED7 total	8,204	-5.2%	
CED8		Seaford East proposed new ward	4,019		
		Seaford North proposed new ward	4,150		
		CED8 total	8,169	-5.6%	
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%)
		CED9 total	8,786	1.6%	
	No. of county councillors	TOTAL ELECTORS (LEWES)	81,724		
	9	Average electorate per County councillor	9,080	5.0%	

Lewes DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs



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Lewes DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards



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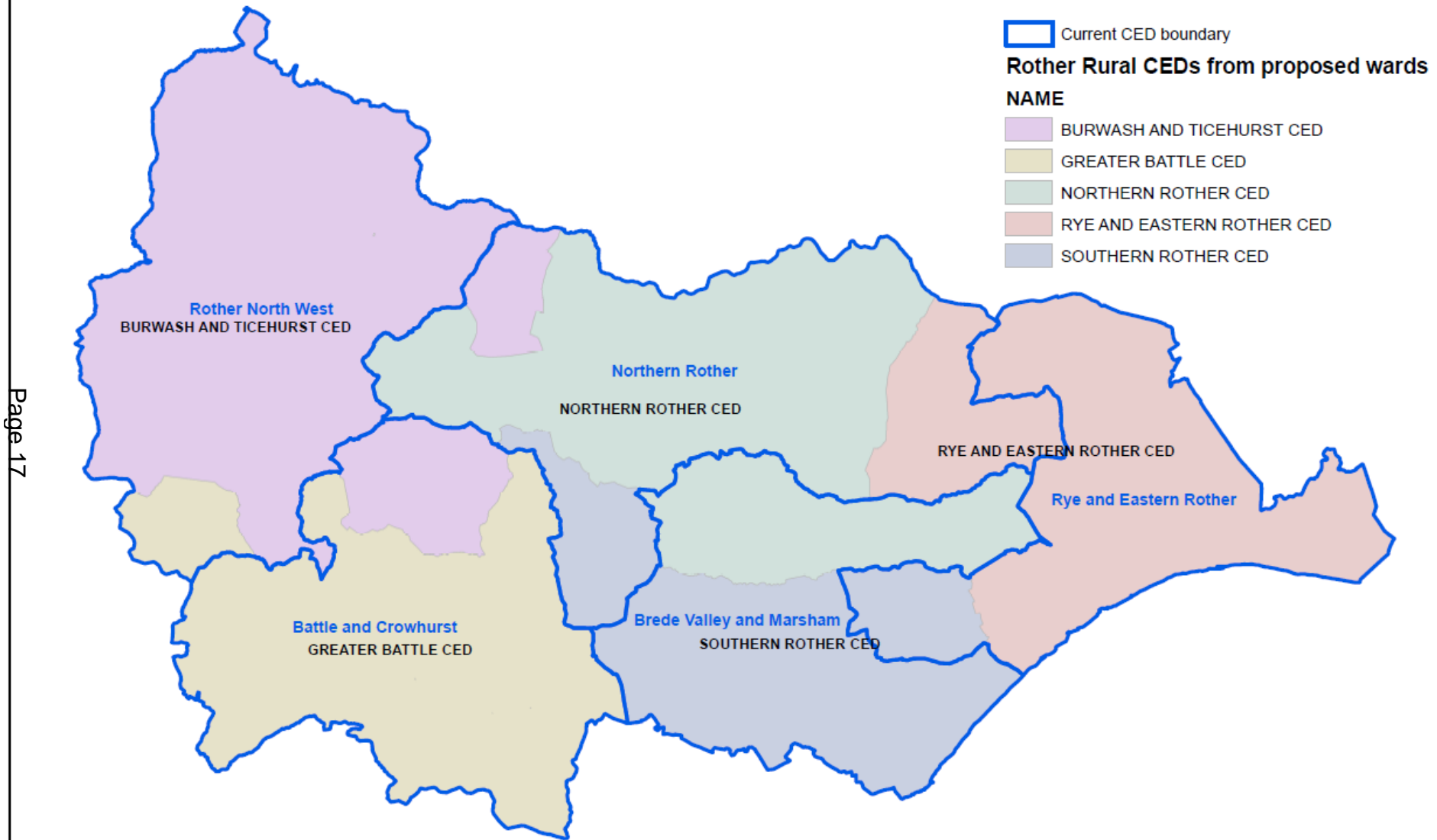
ROTHER

Rother District Council has agreed its submission in respect of district ward boundaries at its Council meeting on 16 November 2015. Based on that pattern, the County council is proposing a CED pattern as reflected in the following table and maps.

It was not possible to achieve coterminosity between CED and ward boundaries in the Bexhill area. The proposed split (reflected in the close up map below) was considered the best of a number of options because it creates positive focal points for the future development of each of the four proposed CEDs.

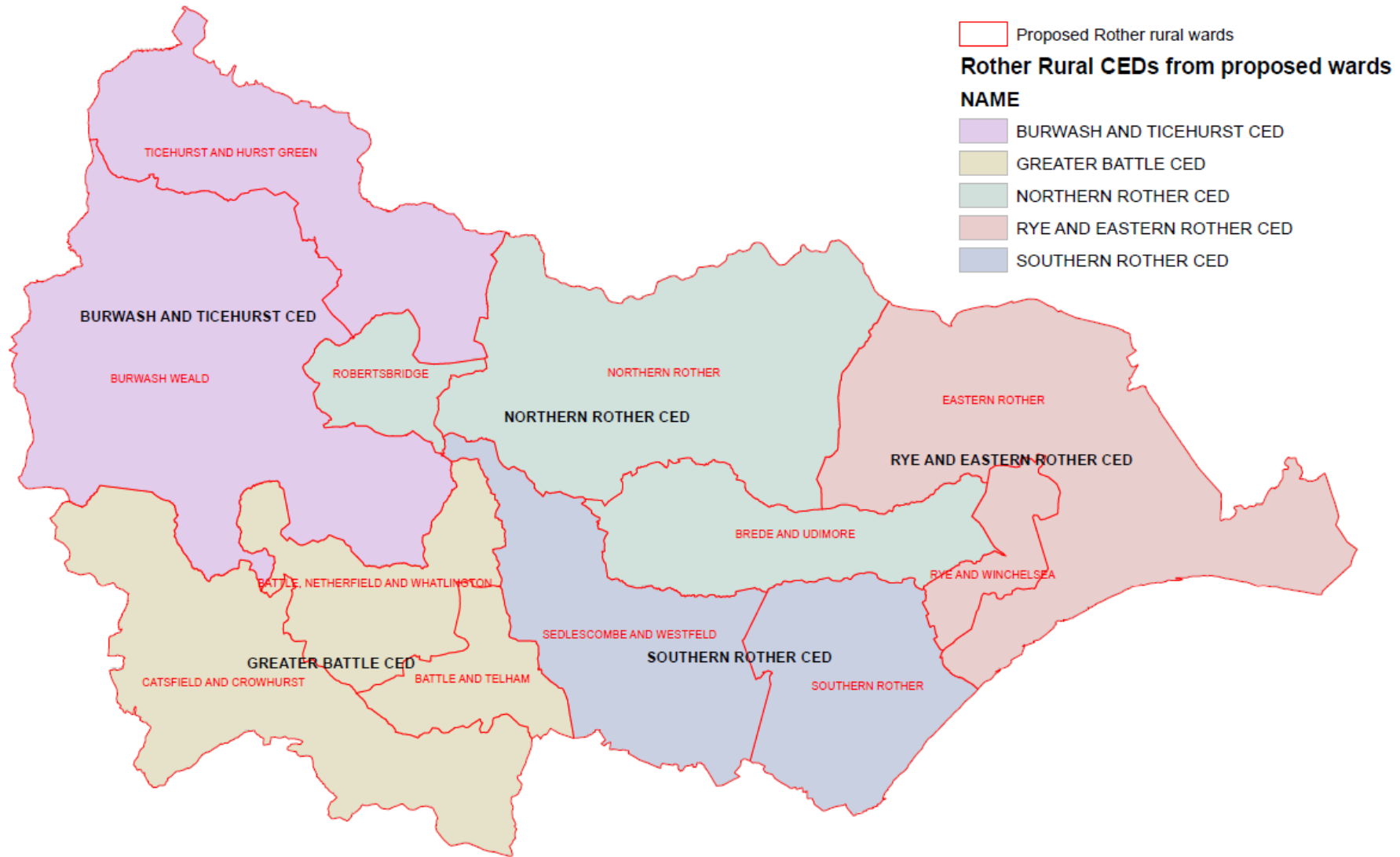
CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
CED1		5. Burwash Weald + 9. Hurst Green & Ticehurst proposed new wards	8,133	-6.0%	
CED2		2. Battle & Telham + 3. Battle, Netherfield and Whatlington + 4. Catsfield & Crowhurst proposed new wards	8,061	-6.8%	
CED3		6. Northern 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%	
	Bexhill North	BJ001+BJ002+BI001+KEW02	8,554	-1.1%	See close up map detailing 'option 2'.
	Bexhill East	BI002+BE001+BH001+BH002+BE002	9,067	4.8%	
	Bexhill South	BF+BC001+BC002+BD001	9,287	7.4%	
	Bexhill West	BD003+BD002+KEW01+KEW03+BG001+BG002+BG003	9,412	8.8%	
	No. of county councillors	TOTAL ELECTORS (ROTHER)	77,031		
	9	Average electorate per County councillor	8,559	-1.1%	

Rother DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with existing CEDs

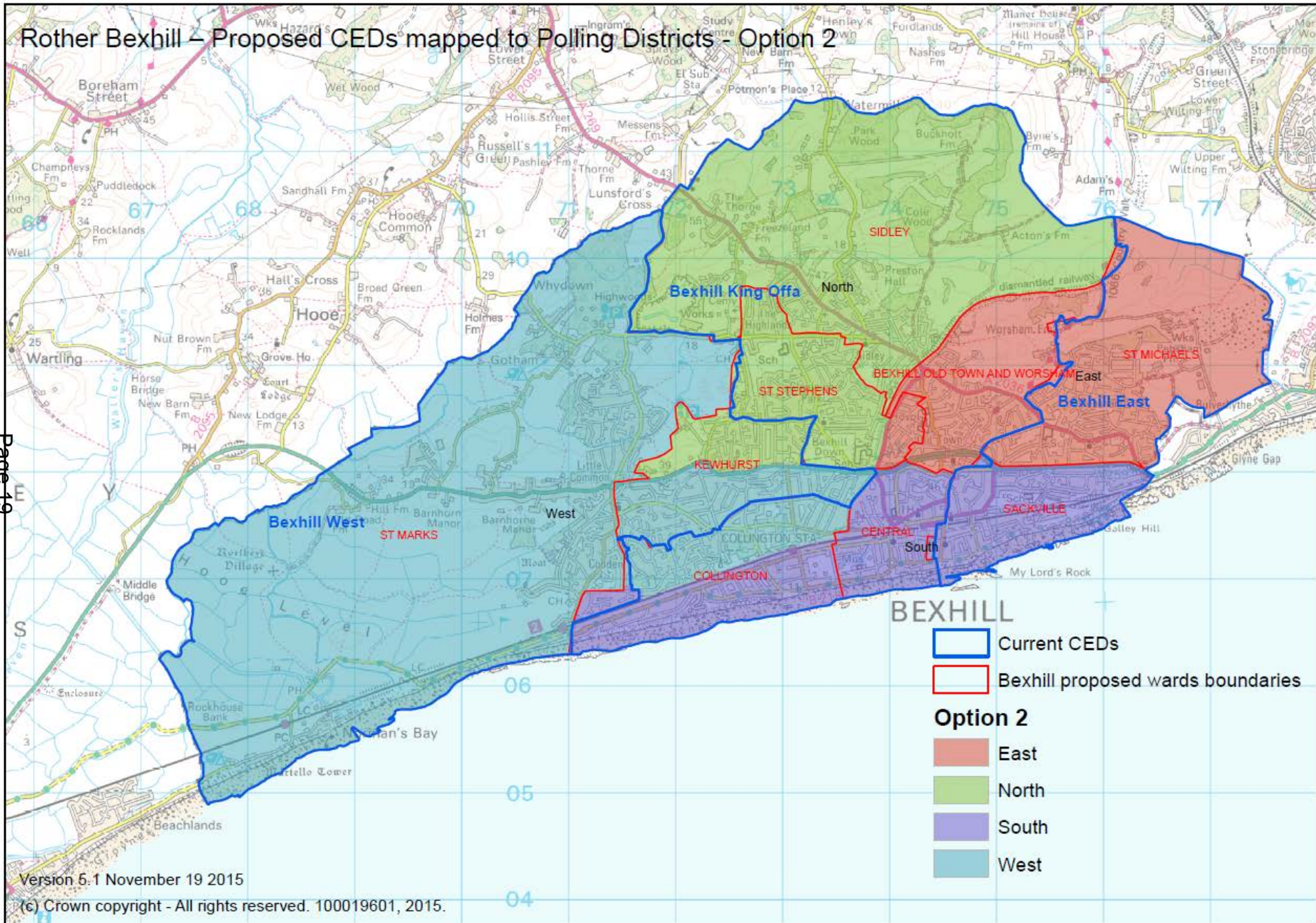


Rother DC – Proposed CEDs mapped with proposed wards

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Rother Bexhill - Proposed CEDs mapped to Polling Districts - Option 2



WEALDEN

Under this review, Wealden District Council will see a reduction in the number of its councillors from 55 to 45. The County Council will see an increase of one councillor to 15 for the Wealden district area. Wealden District Council is proposing a complete revision of the district ward pattern. Based on that pattern, the County Council proposes a coterminous division pattern as reflected on the following table and maps:

CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
W-CED1	Hartfield	ABC/ Withyham, Forest Row, Hartfield	8,595	-0.6%	
W-CED2	Maresfield and Buxted	DEF/ Danehill and Fletching, Maresfield, Buxted	8,558	-1.1%	
W-CED3	Wadhurst	GHI/ Wadhurst Central and South, Frant and Wadhurst North, Hadlow Down and Rotherfield	8,157	-5.7%	
W-CED4	Crowborough North and Jarvis Brook	C1-3 / Crowborough North, Crowborough Central, Crowborough Jarvis Brook	9,110	5.3%	
W-CED5	Crowborough South and St Johns	C4-6/ Crowborough South East, Crowborough South West and Crowborough St Johns	8,846	2.3%	
Page 20 W-CED6	Heathfield and Mayfield	JKL/ Mayfield and Five Ashes, Heathfield North, Heathfield South	8,774	1.4%	
W-CED7	Uckfield South with Framfield	U1U2 + N/ Uckfield New Town, Uckfield Ridgewood with Little Horsted, Framfield and Cross-in-Hand	8,680	0.3%	
W-CED8	Uckfield North with Isfield	U345/ Uckfield North, Uckfield East, Uckfield West with Isfield	8,093	-6.5%	
W-CED9	Horam and Eastern Villages	MQR/ Horam and Old Heathfield, Punnetts Town and Rushlake Green, Ninfield and Herstmonceux (Eastern Villages)	9,297	7.5%	
W-CED10	Arlington, East Hoathly and Hellingly	OVX/ Hellingly, Arlington, Chiddingly East Hoathly and Waldron	8,431	-2.5%	
W-CED11	Pevensey and Stone Cross	STP3/ Stone Cross, Pevensey Bay, Pevensey and Westham	8,292	-4.1%	
W-CED12	Polegate and Watermill	P1P2P4/ Polegate North, Polegate Central, Polegate South (Willingdon Watermill and Polegate South)	8,711	0.7%	

CED	CED name (proposed)	Building blocks	Electorate 2021	Variance from 8,651	Notes
W-CED13	Willingdon and South Downs	W+W1+W2/ South Downs, Lower Willingdon, Upper Willingdon	8,463	-2.2%	
W-CED14	Hailsham Market	Hailsham North, Hailsham Central, Hailsham East	9,268	7.1%	
W-CED15	Hailsham New Town	Hailsham South, Hailsham West, Hailsham North West	9,088	5.1%	
Total					
	No. of county councillors	TOTAL ELECTORS (WEALDEN)	130,363		
	15	Average electorate per County Councillor	8,691	0.5%	

