

County Council Response to Mid Sussex District Council’s consultation on the Burgess Hill Town Council Community Governance Review

1. The County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the possible proposal by Mid Sussex District Council to ask the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to change the county division boundary between Burgess Hill North and Cuckfield & Lucastes.
2. The County Council comments only on this aspect of the proposal and not on the Community Governance Review of Burgess Hill Town Council.
3. The County Council notes the population projections for 2027. It has considered electorate projection figures for the county for 2027 based on Office for National Statistics projections. These predict a population of 910,301 and a projected electorate of 732,068. This would mean an average of 10,458 electors per County Council electoral division.
4. Taking that county average, the County Council calculates the following possible impact of the possible change on the affected electoral divisions:

Electoral Divisions affected	Electorate	% +/- Average
Cuckfield & Lucastes with Northern Arc	11979	+15%
Burgess Hill North without Northern Arc	10136	-3%
Cuckfield & Lucastes without Northern Arc	8919	-15%
Burgess Hill North with Northern Arc	13196	+26%

5. The County Council is concerned that a potential +26% variation to the desired average is close to the Boundary Commission for England’s 30% threshold that would trigger a County Council boundary review.
6. The County Council also considers it best not to prejudge the wishes of a new community as to whether they wish to be considered part of Burgess Hill, Ansty or a new Brook Leigh parish, as few people are living in the development area at present.
7. In conclusion, the County Council does not support the proposal to move the County Councils’ electoral division boundary on the grounds of the resulting electorate imbalance between divisions and its potential impact on equality of representation and that it could be seen to be pre-judging the views and interests of the Community who cannot be consulted. Both factors may also be relevant considerations in terms of the need to promote effectiveness and convenience in local government.