

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



## EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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### Chief Executive

Julie Beilby BSc (Hons) MBA

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Gibson Drive  
Kings Hill, West Malling  
Kent ME19 4LZ  
West Malling (01732) 844522

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**NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.**

Contact: Democratic Services  
committee.services@tmbc.co.uk

19 July 2021

To: MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the General Purposes Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill on Tuesday, 27th July, 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm

**Details of how this meeting will be conducted following the removal of social distancing measures by Government from 19 July will be advised as soon as possible.**

Information on how to observe the meeting will be published on the Council's website.

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

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Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Cllr M R Rhodes (Chairman)  
Cllr B J Luker (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs P A Bates  
Cllr Mrs S Bell  
Cllr M D Boughton  
Cllr M A Coffin  
Cllr D J Cooper  
Cllr D A S Davis

Cllr N J Heslop  
Cllr M A J Hood  
Cllr D Lettington  
Cllr W E Palmer  
Cllr R V Roud  
Cllr Mrs M Tatton

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Apologies for absence

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Declarations of interest

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## TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

27 July 2021

#### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

#### For Decision

### 1 THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES BOUNDARY REVIEW

**To note the launch of the Parliamentary Constituencies Boundary review and invite Members to consider the proposals and any Council response to the consultation.**

#### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) have launched the review of Parliamentary Constituencies across the UK to create a more equal number of electors in each constituency.

1.1.2 The review was launched in January 2021. The initial proposals were published on 8 June 2021 which started an 8-week public consultation that concludes on 2 August 2021. Members agreed at Council on 13 July, that

“The General Purposes Committee be invited to consider the proposals and delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to thereafter submit the Council’s response to the Boundary Commission”

1.1.3 The document at **Annex 1** is the Commission’s Guide to the review.

#### 1.2 Proposals

1.2.1 The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on the BCE website. The Commission is promoting use of a specifically designed consultation website as the primary tool for displaying the proposals and receiving comments on them. This is available at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)

1.2.2 The proposals for the Constituencies that encompass our Borough are set out at **Annex 2**.

1.2.3 Members should note that the proposals show that we will have 3 Constituencies, called County Constituencies (CC) in the consultation, covering our Borough, Chatham & Aylesford CC, Maidstone and Malling CC and Tonbridge CC.

- 1.2.4 None of the proposed constituencies are co-terminus with the Borough boundaries. In these proposals each of 3 MPs will be shared across local authority boundaries.
- 1.2.5 The proposed Chatham & Aylesford CC loses some of East Malling, Ditton and Aylesford and gains more of Rochester/Chatham.
- 1.2.6 The proposed Tonbridge CC loses some of Malling and gains New Ash Green, Hartley and part of Longfield.
- 1.2.7 The new proposed Maidstone & Malling CC incorporates the Mallings, Barming, Allington and part of Maidstone.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 None arising from this report.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.4.1 None arising from this report.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

- 1.5.1 There are no risks to report to Members associated with this paper, or the draft Constituency boundaries.

### **1.6 Equality Assessment**

- 1.6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

### **1.7 Recommendations**

- 1.7.1 Members are invited to consider the proposals in order to inform a Borough Council response to the Consultation, to be submitted by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Background papers:

contact: Duane Ashdown

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive

# 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

## Partner Guide

June 2021



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# Introduction

## Dear partner,

We'd like your help to promote a public consultation on new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

On 8 June 2021 we published our initial proposals for new constituencies. These proposals will increase the overall number of constituencies in England and make them more equal in terms of the numbers of electors each contains. We have commenced an eight week consultation period, where we want people to tell us whether they agree with the proposed changes, ensuring those responses capture the views and knowledge of local residents.

We need your help to spread the message that it's easy for people to get involved and that all views genuinely count. Members of the public can view our proposals and share feedback on our online consultation portal, [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). We will consider every piece of feedback that we receive.

There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022, which will additionally include a number of public hearings. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received and form its final recommendations. These will be presented to Parliament by July 2023 for approval, with the new constituencies taking effect at the next General Election.

Please get involved and help your local communities have their say!

You will find a number of resources outlined within this guide to help you with this.

2023

# About the review

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January 2021. Due to population changes since the last review, the number of electors in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The Commission is required by legislation to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. We published the initial proposals – the first time people get a look at what the map of constituencies might look like – on 8 June 2021. This launched an initial eight week consultation, ending on 2 August 2021.

## How people can get involved

We want to ensure the final recommendations reflect the views and knowledge of local residents and communities. It is easy for the public to have their say. By visiting our online consultation portal, [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk), you can:

- View the map of proposed constituencies
- Provide feedback on the new boundary lines
- Share your views on proposed new constituency names

Any constituents who are unable to get online can view the initial proposals for new constituency boundaries at local places of deposit, and submit responses to us by letter or email.

## Contact information for partners

If you wish to get in touch with us at any time, you can:

- Email [information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk) or call 020 7276 1102 for general enquiries
- Email [press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk) or call 07821 637558 for press enquiries
- Write to us at: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ

# Key messages

**Fair and impartial**  
Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial public body.

**We want to hear your views**

The Boundary Commission for England want to hear from local residents and communities, to make sure their final recommendations to Parliament take account of local views and knowledge.

**It's easy to have your say**

View and comment on the proposed changes online at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)

**Critical part of our democracy**

Reviewing constituency boundaries is an essential process to make sure that individual votes are of broadly equal weight.

# How to get involved

We want to raise awareness of the Review, and encourage as many people as possible to have their say on the proposed new boundaries. Feel free to use any or all of the tools and resources in this guide to help share the message.

- Follow us on social media and regularly update your organisation's social media platforms. We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to use on your channels.
- Link to the consultation website **[www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)** (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) from your organisation's website or your internal and external bulletins/newsletters.
- Distribute the campaign materials at your venues and events. We also encourage you to share the message far and wide within your networks, including arm's-length management organisations, housing associations, community groups and your internal staff. We have provided graphics for a poster that you can use.
- Send a press notice to local media encouraging others to share their views.
- Blog about it. We have included a sample blog if you want to carry one from us, or you could write your own.



# Resources: Social media

Follow us on social media to hear key updates about the 2023 Boundary Review. We encourage you to regularly share our posts to help raise awareness of the Review. We want to reach as many people as possible.

We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to create your own social media posts if you wish. Feel free to tweak our copy to come up with the best approach for your audience.



[www.facebook.com/BCEReviews](https://www.facebook.com/BCEReviews)



[twitter.com/BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews) or [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews)

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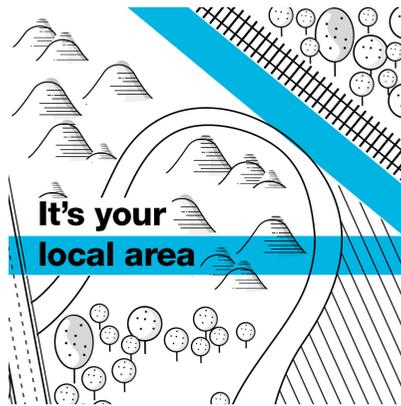
Use **#helpdrawtheline** and tag us **@BCEReviews** on Facebook or Twitter - we look forward to seeing your posts!

# Resources: Social media

Download these campaign graphics from the link below to share as images on social media and make your posts more visually appealing. We have suggested some messaging to help you with this, but please feel free to come up with the best approach for your audience.

Download images for Facebook here  and for Twitter here. 

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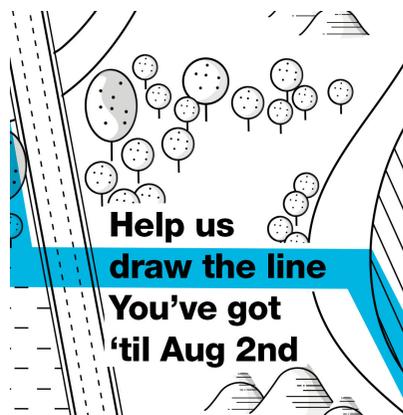
Constituencies are changing.  
Help shape the boundaries for  
your area at  
[www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) and  
follow @BCEReviews



@BCEReviews is redrawing  
constituencies to make the  
number of electors in them more  
equal. Share your views here  
[www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)



@BCEReviews needs  
your local knowledge to  
help shape new  
constituency boundaries.  
#helpdrawtheline at  
[www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)



There's still time to have your say  
on proposed boundary changes for  
your area. Go to  
[www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) to  
#helpdrawtheline

# Resources: Sample messages for websites, bulletins

Please link to our online consultation portal [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) on your organisation's website and in any newsletters or bulletins.

## Text for your website

Did you know that Parliamentary constituencies are set to change? The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are drawing the map of constituencies in England and needs your help to shape their final recommendations, ensuring they take into consideration local knowledge and views.

From 8 June until 2 August 2021 the BCE are holding an eight week consultation, allowing you to share your knowledge about your local area. The Commission considers every piece of feedback that it receives, whether that is about where the constituency boundaries should be or the name of the constituency.

It is easy to get involved - To view interactive maps showing the proposed changes, and to submit your feedback, go to [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk).

## Text for your newsletter or bulletin

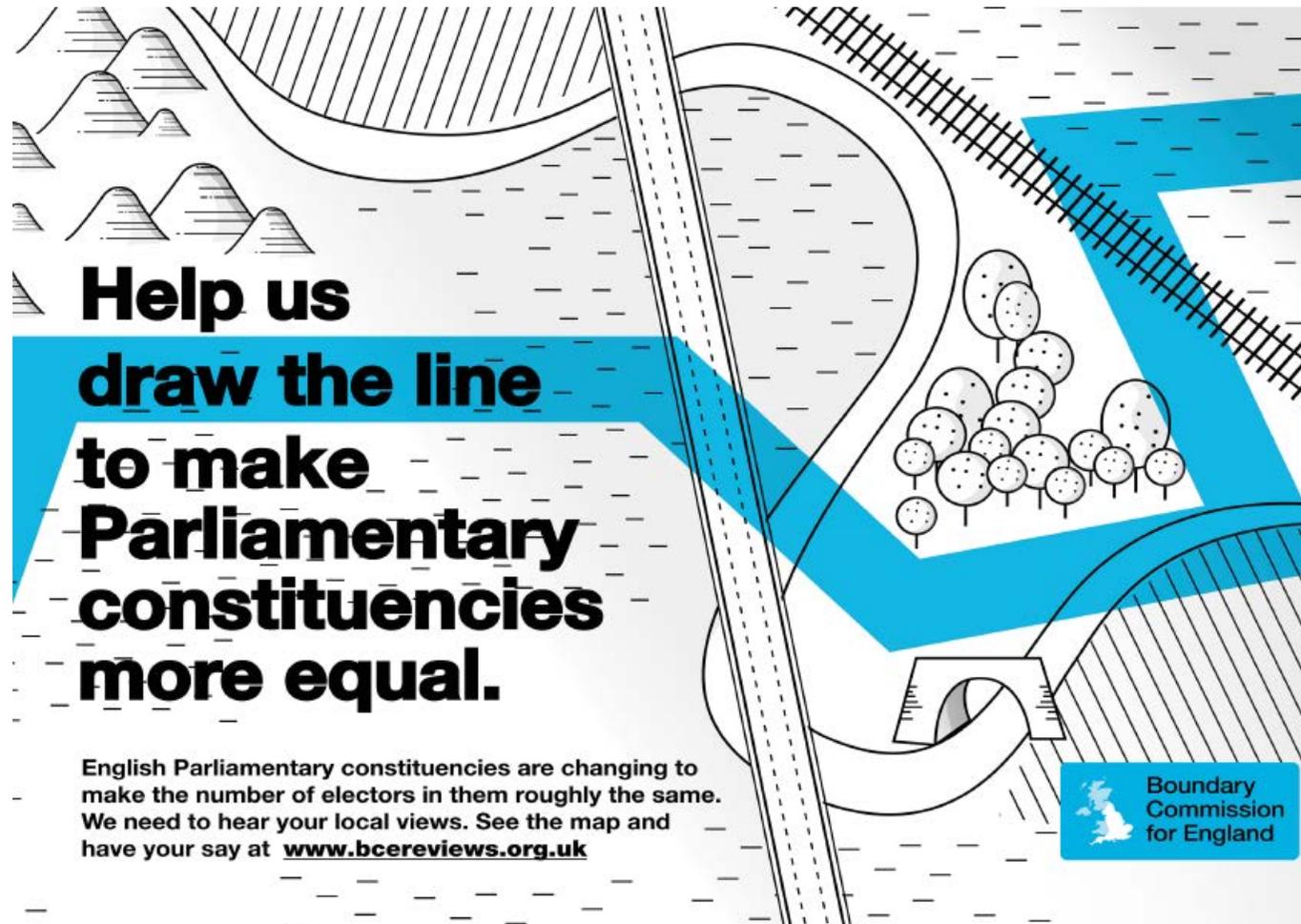
The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The changes will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight, and in doing so increase the number of constituencies from 533 to 543. Go online at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) to view and comment on the proposals. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by 2 August 2021.

# Resources: Poster

Download an informative A4 poster to upload to your website or distribute through your channels.

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Download here



# Resources:

## Press notice

You could consider sending a press notice to local media, encouraging others to share their views. You can find a template press notice on the BCE website or use the link below.

Download our press notice here: 



## Blog post

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England, Tim Bowden, has written a blog which you can share through your channels. This blog must be published under his name.

Download our blog post here: 

## Fact sheet

We have made a helpful fact sheet leaflet with essential information about the review. It can be easily printed - it fits on the back and front of a sheet of A4 paper - and given to anyone who is interested in learning more.

Download our fact sheet here: 



# FAQ

## **Why are you reviewing constituency boundaries?**

We have been asked by Parliament to review constituencies in England to ensure that there is a more even distribution of electors across them. Due to population changes since the last review, the number of electors in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The 2023 Boundary Review, which was launched in January this year, will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight. In making these required changes, the number of constituencies in England must increase from 533 to 543.

## **How do you work out the proposed changes to boundaries?**

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 requires the Commission to base this review on electorate data from 2 March 2020. According to the UK's electorate figures published on 5 January 2021 by the Office for National Statistics, each constituency that we recommend must contain no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except two 'protected' constituencies for the Isle of Wight). This is essentially the mean average number of electors for each constituency. England will be allocated 543 constituencies for the new review, which constitutes an increase of ten constituencies.

## **Will my MP or constituency be affected by the boundary changes?**

The number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543, and each will need to have a similar number of electors. To implement these requirements, there will be wide scale change to the majority of constituencies. View the proposals online at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) for your particular area to find out more.

## **When would the proposed changes take effect?**

The Boundary Commission will make its final recommendations to Parliament by 1 July 2023. The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE (and those of the equivalent Commissions for the other three parts of the UK) into an 'Order in Council' that implements the recommendations. The constituencies set out in the Order will then be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is approved.

## **Will this review favour one political party over another?**

The Boundary Commission for England is independent and impartial and will not take into account patterns of voting or the results of elections when reviewing constituency boundaries. Nor do the political parties' views on where boundaries should be have any more weight than those of members of the public.

## **How long will the review last?**

Initial proposals are published on 8 June 2021, with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in the summer of 2023.

## **Why do you need my views?**

We want to make sure that the final recommendations have taken local views and knowledge into consideration.

## How can I share my views?

You can visit [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) to view the proposed map of constituencies and share your views.

## Will the changes affect my local council services, bin collections or schools, for example?

No. The boundary changes only relate to Parliamentary constituencies (the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament). Services and council tax in your local area are set by your local authority and this review does not change local authority boundaries.

## When will the new constituencies take effect?

After the final report from all four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions has been laid by the Speaker, the Government is required to submit to the Privy Council an Order that gives effect to all four Commissions' recommendations. After the Privy Council approves the Order, the new constituencies take effect at the next General Election. Any by-elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies.

## Will the name of my constituency change following the review?

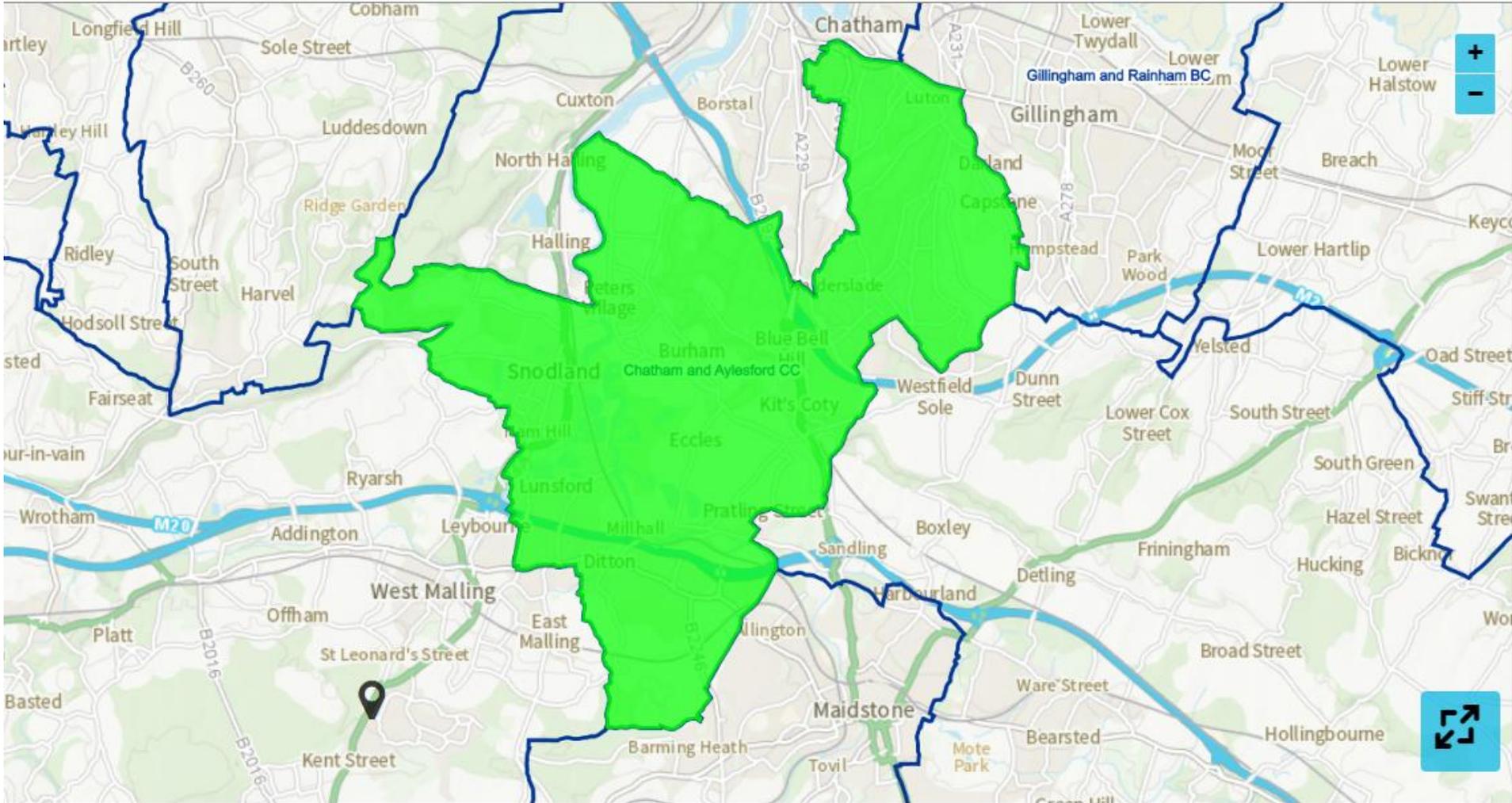
Possibly. As well as looking at where the boundaries of constituencies should be, the BCE will recommend a specific name for each constituency. Generally, the more a constituency has changed, the more likely it is that the BCE will recommend a change of name. The Commission welcomes views on the naming of proposed constituencies during the consultation.

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Make a comment



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Details of the selected area



Name

Electorate

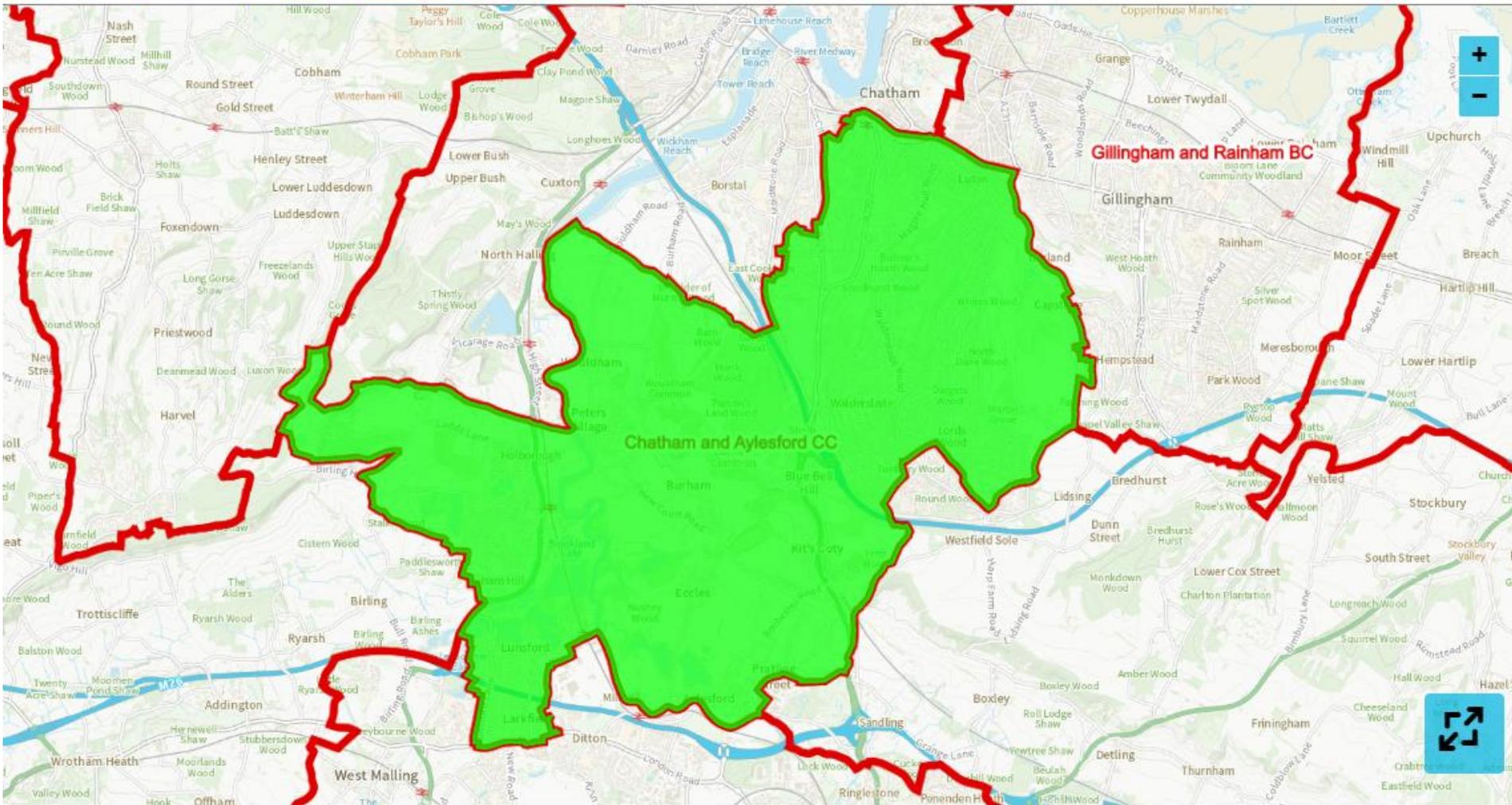
Chatham and Aylesford CC

72,284

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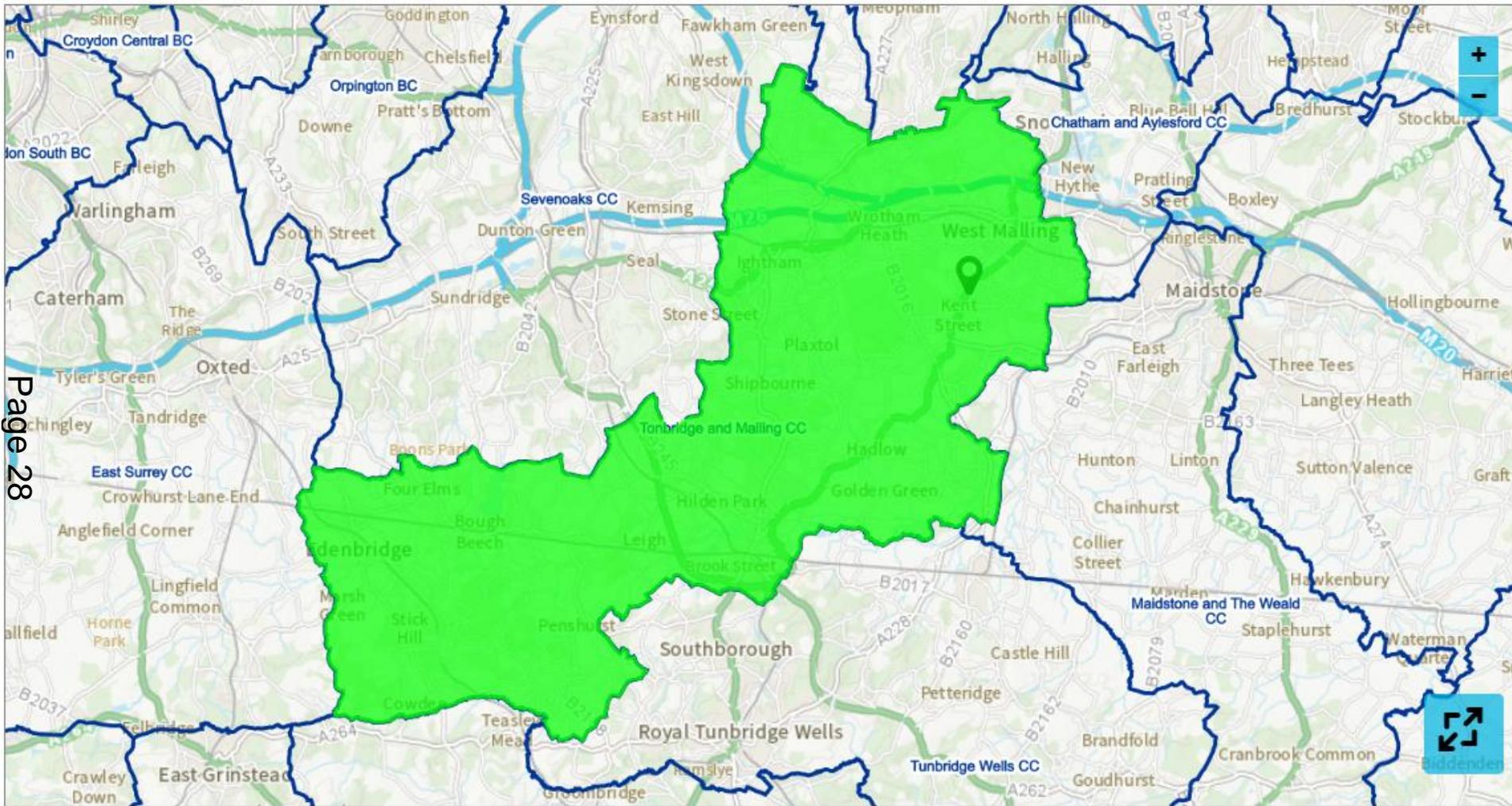
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Name	Electorate
Chatham and Aylesford CC	74,840



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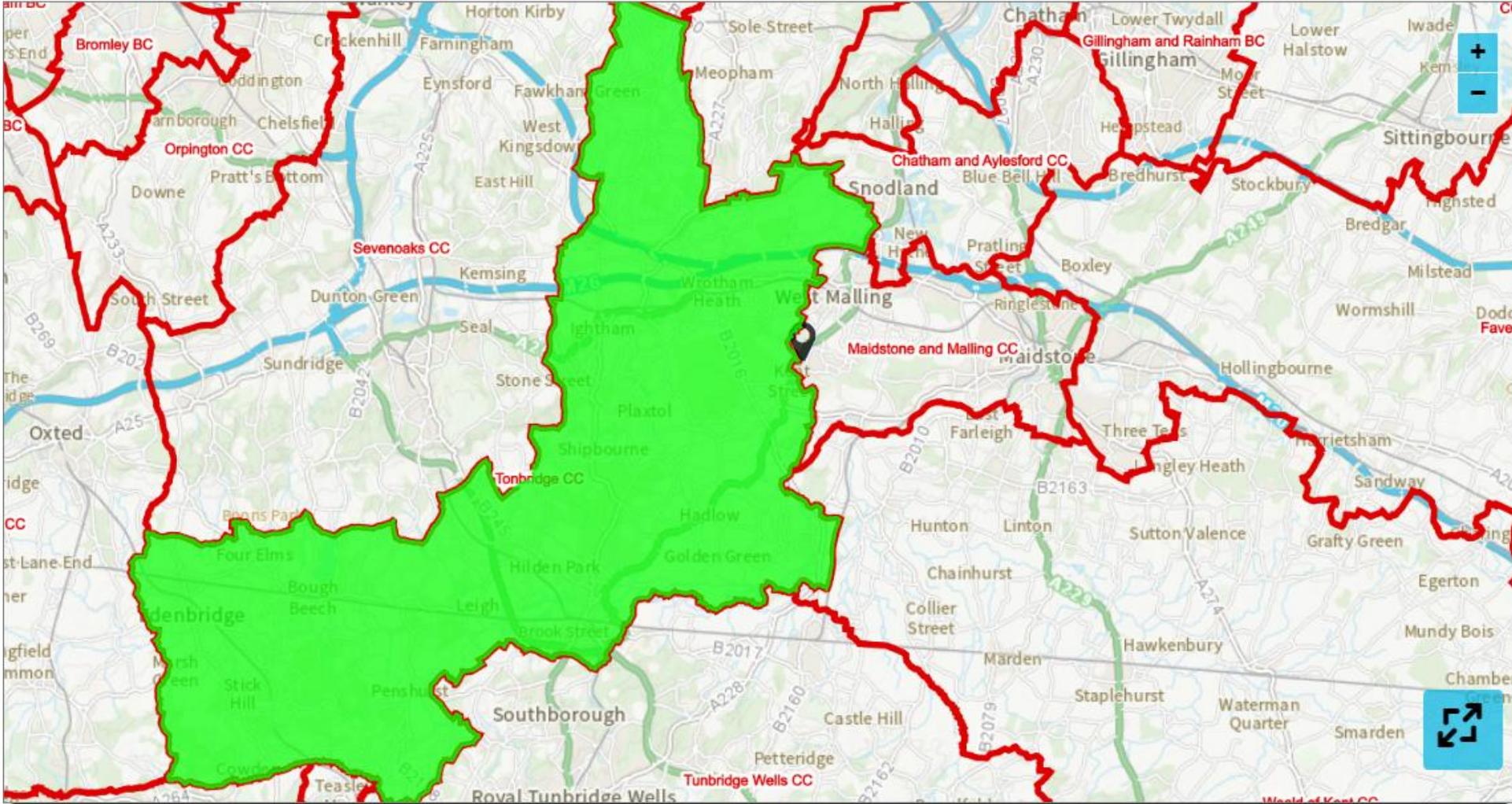
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Name	Electorate	
Tonbridge and Malling CC	80,368	

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**Details of the selected area**



**Name**

**Electorate**

Tonbridge CC

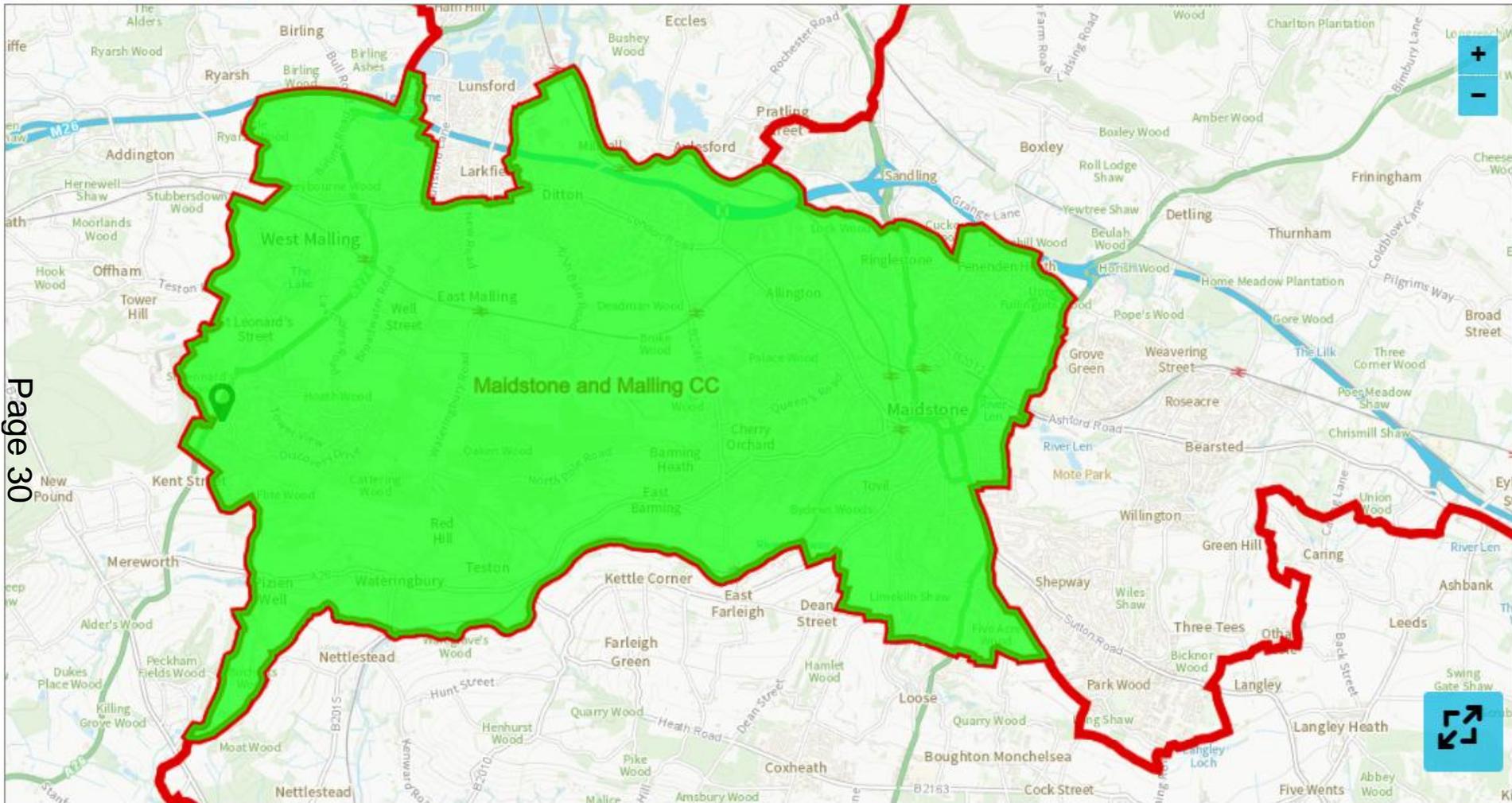
72,091

# Proposed Maidstone & Malling CC

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**Search**

**Make a comment**



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 **Details of the selected area** 

Name	Electorate
Maidstone and Malling CC	74,685

# Agenda Item 4

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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# Agenda Item 5

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any items the publication of which would disclose exempt information.

**ANY REPORTS APPEARING AFTER THIS PAGE CONTAIN EXEMPT  
INFORMATION**

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# Agenda Item 6

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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