

# Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

## Briefing on Parliamentary Boundary changes, Tranche 2 of Election Bill changes and Elections

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# Agenda

- **Parliamentary Boundary changes**
  - New constituencies
  - Polling District & Station review
  - Consultation
- **Tranche 2 of Election Bill changes**
  - **Tranche 1 – Voter Identification in Polling stations.**
  - Postal/Proxy voters
  - Overseas Electors
  - EU citizens
- **Elections**
  - PCC
  - Parliamentary

# Parliamentary Boundary changes

## Background

- Started in 2021
- Final proposals and changes made 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.
- Being laid to law in Parliament in November.
- Changes have to be made before next Parliamentary election. No date yet!

# Parliamentary Boundary changes

## **New Constituencies that cover our borough**

- Chatham & Aylesford – Medway Council
- Maidstone & Malling – Maidstone Borough Council
- Tonbridge – Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

# Parliamentary Boundary changes

## Polling District & Station Review

- Timetable

1st October 2023	Final Maps and details of authority responsible for each area sent by Boundary Commission
October/November 2023	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations
20th November 2023	Final Polling district/proposals
1st December 2023	Launch Consultation
1st January 2024	Consultations ends
24th January 2024	Final proposals to General Purposes committee
1st February 2024	Changes made to register
1st March 2024	PCC Election timetable starts
2nd May 2024	PCC Election

# Parliamentary Boundary changes

- No changes to Polling Districts, they fit exactly in the constituencies
- Looking at some Polling stations from Local Elections in May.

# Tranche 2 of Election Bill changes

- **Tranche 1** – was the introduction of Voter ID in Polling stations in May 2023. Online portal to apply for Voter ID.
- **Tranche 2**

## Changes to Postal Votes and Proxy votes

- New Postal & Proxy vote application forms from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, they now include boxes for the National Insurance number, as now have to complete verification checks on electors. Existing postal voters will change to new system when renewing.
- Will only last for 3 years not 5 – renew third 31<sup>st</sup> January after set-up, e.g. PV set up 10/12/23, 1<sup>st</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026.
- New online Government portal to apply for absent votes went live 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023
- Restriction on number of completed postal votes that can be handed in at offices or polling stations. Forms have to be completed when handing them in.
- New Restrictions on Councillors handling Postal vote applications and completed packs.
- All current Proxy voters will have their Proxy vote cancelled on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, if they have not renewed under new system from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.
- Limit on number of people you can be proxy for, 2 domestic, 2 overseas.

# Tranche 2 of Election Bill changes

## Overseas Electors

- Now unlimited - 15 year limit been cancelled
- 3 year renewal

## EU Citizens

- Any citizens from countries that do not have voting agreements in place with central Government have to be removed from the register.
- Changes not coming into effect until after May elections.

# Elections

- **Police & Crime Commissioner Election** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Paro – Gravesham. Hall Booking forms will be sent early in 2024.
- **Parliamentary Election** - No confirmed date, has to take place before 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- Election Staff – extremely short of election staff, if anyone interested in working on the elections, please contact Daune on 01732 876229 or [daune.ashdown@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:daune.ashdown@tmbc.gov.uk)

Any Questions?



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