

The Liberal Democrat Group  
Tandridge District Council

**Response to the Boundary Commission Review: Tandridge District Council for 2024**

## Size of the Council/Number of elected Councillors

1. The current size of the council is 42 councillors. Each representing on average 2134 electors.

Table A: comparison with Surrey Districts and Boroughs

| Row Labels           | Sum of<br>Total<br>cldr | Sum of population |          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Epsom and Ewell      | 38                      | 79928             | 2103.368 |
| Mole Valley          | 41                      | 87253             | 2128.122 |
| Tandridge            | 41                      | 87496             | 2134.049 |
| Runnymede            | 41                      | 88000             | 2146.341 |
| Waverley             | 57                      | 125610            | 2203.684 |
| Surrey Heath         | 35                      | 88874             | 2539.257 |
| Spelthorne           | 39                      | 99334             | 2547.026 |
| Grand Total          | 461                     | 1189934           | 2581.202 |
| Elmbridge            | 46                      | 136626            | 2970.13  |
| Guildford            | 48                      | 147889            | 3081.021 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 45                      | 147757            | 3283.489 |
| Woking               | 30                      | 101167            | 3372.233 |
| average              |                         |                   | 2590.827 |

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TDC currently has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest councillor: elector ratio.

Table B: How many councillors should TDC have based on Surrey Average and Lowest ratio

|                         | Average Ratio | Balance ration | Lowest Ratio |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Electors per councillor | 2590          | 2430           | 3372         |
| Councillors             | 34            | 36             | 26           |

I have included the balance ration of 36 as this is divisible by 3 which is a pre-requisite for electing in thirds as agreed at Full Council

2. TDC runs a committee system. Currently there are 12 standard committees and sub-committees

Table C: membership of committees and committee places per councillor 2022/3

| Committees & Sub-Committees    | MEMBERSHIP |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|
|                                |            |     |     |     |
| Audit & Scrutiny Committee     | 11         |     |     |     |
| Chief Officer Sub Committee    | 4          |     |     |     |
| Community Services Committee   | 12         |     |     |     |
| Housing Committee              | 11         |     |     |     |
| Investment Sub Committee       | 3          |     |     |     |
| Licensing Committee            | 11         |     |     |     |
| Licensing Sub Committee        | 7          |     |     |     |
| Planning Committee             | 11         |     |     |     |
| Planning Policy Committee      | 11         |     |     |     |
| Regulatory Sub Committee       | 3          |     |     |     |
| Standards Committee            | 7          |     |     |     |
| Strategy & Resources Committee | 12         |     |     |     |
|                                |            |     |     |     |
| TOTAL COMMITTEE PLACES         | 103        |     |     |     |
| NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS          | 42         | 34  | 36  | 26  |
| COMMITTEES PER COUNCILLOR      | 2.5        | 3.0 | 2.9 | 4.0 |

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Currently on average each councillor sits on 2.5 committees or sub-committees. A reduction to 34 councillors (the Surrey average) would increase average committee membership to 3 per councillor. A further reduction to 26 (Surrey lowest) would increase each councillors committee memberships to an average of 4. (this does not include substitutes)

Tandridge Council wishes to continue using the Committee Structure and does not wish to move to a cabinet system.

I have included 36 as this is divisible by 3 which is a pre-requisite for recommendation 2

3. Recommendation of the Tandridge Lib Dem Group is as follows:

**That the number of councillors be reduced to a number closer to the Surrey average using the balanced ratio number of 36 councillors. This would increase the number of residents per councillor from on average 2134 to 2430. It would also increase the number of committees each councillor attends on average by 0.4.**

It is also possible that with reduced number of councillors the number of members per committee may reduce also.