**Local Government Boundary Commission**

**A review of the number of councillors, divisions and division names for Essex County Council**

To whom it may concern:

I am responding to proposals for changes to Essex County Council divisions and division names in the Maldon District area.

Included in my response is a spreadsheet generated by Essex County Council which shows their suggested changes from 3 division to 4 in the Maldon District.

I am writing to suggest some alternations to their proposal.

In doing so I have attempted to ensure as best as possible, fairness, effective local government and community interest.

In my suggestions, shown in red in the attached spreadsheet, I have:

1. Suggested a change of division name from **Maldon Town** to **Maldon and Heybridge**.

This change of name is to better recognise the importance of Heybridge as a significant community which can be overlooked.

1. Moved Heybridge West from **Maldon Rual North** to **Maldon and Heybridge.**

Heybridge West is predominantly a residential and industrial area with a limited rural area and little agricultural provision. Heybridge West links directly to Maldon North across the bridge over the river Blackwater. It is also predominantly residential and industrial and both share extensive retail provision. Linking Maldon North, Maldon South, Maldon West and Heybridge West, I would suggest, produces a coherent division.

1. Moved Heybridge East and Heybridge Basin from the ‘new’ **Maldon and Heybridge** to **Maldon Rural North**.

Splitting Heybridge isn’t ideal but the aim of fairness dictates some compromise to ensure reasonable allocation of resident number between the divisions. It is also the case that a significant part of Heybridge East is rural which extensively borders Goldhanger to the North and Tolleshunt D’arcy to the east. Both of these wards are predominantly rural and all are north of the Blackwater estuary.

1. Maldon East remains part of **Maldon Rural South**

Although, ideally Maldon East would be part of Maldon and Heybridge, however the need for fairness dictates compromise. It is also the case that extensive areas of Maldon East are rural and border on other more rural wards south of the Blackwater.

The remaining postal districts remain unaltered from the suggestion proposed by Essex County Council.

Kind Regards

Cllr John Driver

Leader of the Lib Dem Group on Maldon District Council