

5. Fareham

5.1 About Fareham

The Borough of Fareham is a coastal, mainly urban district lying between the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. The largest settlements are Fareham town, Portchester, Locks Heath and Stubbington, with a large new development planned at Welborne, north of Fareham town. The district also includes Titchfield Haven, a well-known nature reserve and the point where the River Meon flows out to the Solent. Fareham borders the River Hamble to the west, Winchester district to the north and Gosport to the south and has a short boundary with Portsmouth to the east. The district is unparished.

The principal road corridors through Fareham are the east-west M27, the parallel A27 further south and the A32, which runs north to Alton and south to Gosport. Fareham is the sole through-route for commuting into/out of Gosport, which together with high traffic flows along the motorway mean that routes through Fareham can be congested. There are local rail connections to Eastleigh, Southampton, Portsmouth and Brighton.

Fareham has strong economic links with Portsmouth and many people who work in Portsmouth live in Fareham. The Solent Enterprise Zone at the former naval airfield HMS Daedalus lies mainly within Fareham. This is a significant commercial development which is expected to bring 3,500 jobs into the borough by 2025.

The population of Fareham in 2015 is around 114,000. Development in Fareham in recent times has been spread all over the borough. Stubbington grew substantially after the Second World War but elsewhere in the borough the environmental constraints around Titchfield, the various water boundaries and the nature of the Gosport peninsula have meant that development has been slower than in many other parts of the county. As a result the average electorate in Fareham is lower than the Hampshire average.

However, a significant change to the number and distribution of Fareham's voters in the medium term will come in the form of a new town planned to be built at Welborne. This site is to the north of Fareham town, over the M27 near junction 10, and is located within the Fareham Town division. The first tranche of 1,000 homes is projected to be completed by 2021.

Map of Existing County Council Divisions in Fareham



5.2 County Council Divisions in Fareham

There are currently seven County Councillors from Fareham, five representing single-Member divisions and two representing a joint division.

Existing divisions – registered and forecast electorate

Division name	Members	2014 Electorate	2014 Variance	2021 Electorate Forecast	2021 Variance
Fareham Crofton	1	11,729	-10.3%	11,665	-15.8%
Fareham Portchester	1	14,491	+10.8%	14,117	+2.0%
Fareham Sarisbury	1	12,026	-8.1%	13,456	-2.8%
Fareham Titchfield	1	11,759	-10.1%	11,641	-15.9%
Fareham Town	2	27,946	+6.8%	30,883	+11.5%
Fareham Warsash	1	11,188	-14.5%	11,214	-19.0%
Total	7	89,139		92,976	

Of the six divisions only Fareham Portchester and Fareham Sarisbury are forecast to fall within the +/-10% variance threshold. Fareham Town has a projected 2021 electorate more than 10% in excess of the Hampshire average while the electorates in Fareham Crofton, Titchfield and Warsash are projected to be more than 10% below. The proposals address this imbalance between the divisions by expanding Warsash and Titchfield to the east at the expense of Fareham Town. The proposed new pattern of divisions would leave all the divisions in Fareham with a 2021 electorate variance well within the 10% tolerance with the exception of Fareham Crofton which, as explained below, we propose should remain as it is on the grounds of community identity.

No changes to the names of any Fareham divisions are proposed (but see Fareham Crofton below).

The proposals for Fareham were co-ordinated by Councillor Peter Latham, one of the two Members for Fareham Town, and were discussed with and agreed by all current Fareham County Councillors.

5.3 Fareham Crofton

2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,665 (-15.8% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the south-eastern section of the borough including the large coastal village of Stubbington (which now incorporates old settlements

including Crofton and Hill Head), the Maritime Warfare School at HMS Collingwood and the Solent Enterprise Zone at HMS Daedalus. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Hill Head
- Stubbington

Fareham Crofton is forecast to have an electorate significantly below the 2021 Hampshire average so in normal circumstances it would be desirable to enlarge the division into other areas. However, no obvious solution presents itself as the community is physically isolated and there are constraints to expansion on all sides. Councillor Latham comments:

“Stubbington and Hill Head (the Crofton division) is a community set apart from the rest of the borough. Its boundaries are clearly defined by the sea to the south, Gosport to the east, a strategic gap and a possible Stubbington by-pass to the north and open fields towards Titchfield in the west. It has its own small town with excellent shopping facilities, a community centre, sports pitches, churches and a vibrant medical practice. It has a strong identity and community spirit which is separate from the rest of the borough. I have consulted with the local Member and he agrees with this assessment.”

Given these strong reasons, Fareham Crofton is regarded as a natural geographic exception to the -10% threshold and no changes are proposed to its boundaries.

Councillor Chris Wood, the current Member for Fareham Crofton, proposed that the name of Fareham Crofton should be changed to Stubbington & Hill Head. This was not supported by other Fareham Members and therefore this proposal is not recommended.

Proposal for Fareham Crofton

- Retain whole of current division

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 11,665 (-15.8% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.4 Fareham Portchester

2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,117 (+2.0% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the eastern section of the borough. It is bounded by Portsdown Hill to the north, adjoins the city of Portsmouth to the east and forms the northern shore of Portsmouth Harbour. The M27 runs along its

northern edge and the A27 through the middle of the division. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Portchester East
- Portchester West

Fareham Portchester is forecast to have an electorate just above the 2021 Hampshire average so no change is strictly necessary to achieve electoral equality. However, within the division is a residential area north of Cams Hall clearly defined by Down End Road, the A27, the slipway from the motorway and fields to the north. This area merges into Fareham Town and, Members believe, shares no interest or identity with Portchester. The facilities used by the residents of this area are far more likely to be in Fareham Town than Portchester. If this and the other changes to Fareham Town are agreed (see below), both Fareham Town and Portchester will have a forecast electorate almost exactly equal to the Hampshire average.

It is therefore proposed that this area should transfer from Portchester into Fareham Town, a proposal which is supported by the current Member for Fareham Portchester.

Proposal for Fareham Portchester

- Transfer part of polling district PW4 defined by Down End Road, the A27, the slipway from the motorway and the fields to the north to Fareham Town (-508)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,609 (-1.7% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.5 Fareham Sarisbury

2021 Electorate Forecast: 13,456 (-2.8% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the north-western section of the borough including various smaller settlements such as Swanwick, BurrIDGE and Sarisbury. The National Air traffic Control service is based in Swanwick. Fareham Sarisbury is divided by both the M27 and the Portsmouth-Southampton railway running east-west in parallel through the central section. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Park Gate
- Sarisbury

Fareham Sarisbury is forecast to have an electorate only just below the 2021 Hampshire average so no changes are necessary to achieve electoral equality. The area has a distinct identity and given the constraints imposed by the River Hamble and the district border with Winchester no changes are proposed to the division boundary.

Proposal for Fareham Sarisbury

- Retain whole of current division

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,456 (-2.8% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.6 **Fareham Titchfield**

2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,641 (-15.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the central section of Fareham and is centred around the village of Titchfield, with built-up areas to the west and east, Titchfield Abbey to the north and Titchfield Haven to the south. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Titchfield Common
- Titchfield

Like Fareham Crofton, Fareham Titchfield is forecast to have an electorate significantly below the 2021 Hampshire average, but its connections to other built-up areas do not merit a similar exception being applied. To achieve electoral equality it is necessary to transfer polling districts from western Fareham Town into Titchfield, and others from western Titchfield into Warsash (see below). FW2, FW3 and FW4 adjoin the current built-up area in Fareham Titchfield and it is believed that this solution does not infringe community identity.

Proposal for Fareham Titchfield

- Add polling districts FW2, FW3 and FW4 (+3,919)
- Transfer polling districts TC3 and TC4 into Fareham Warsash (-2,455)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,105 (-5.4% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.7 Fareham Town

2021 Electorate Forecast: 30,883 (+11.5% against Hampshire average)

This two-Member division covers both the main urban area of Fareham town and the large rural area north of the M27 that bulges into Winchester district, which is the site of the future Welborne development. The M27 runs through Fareham Town with the A27 running in parallel and linking with the A32 from Gosport to join the motorway at junction 11. Fareham Town is served by two railway lines linking it with Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Fareham East
- Fareham North West
- Fareham North
- Fareham South
- Fareham West

Fareham Town is forecast to have an electorate some way above the 2021 Hampshire average, in excess of the +10% threshold. As described above, to achieve electoral equality it is necessary to transfer polling districts from Fareham Town westwards into Titchfield.

As part of this process we have re-examined whether Fareham Town should continue to be a two-Member division. The arrangement has worked well over the past ten years, and Members believe that we should maintain the status quo in the town rather than draw an arbitrary line through the middle of it, or from north to south or east to west. There is also significant change coming with the development of Welborne so some stability in terms of representation would be helpful. No changes are therefore proposed to this arrangement.

Proposal for Fareham Town

- Transfer polling districts FW2, FW3 and FW4 into Fareham Titchfield (-3,919)
- Add part of polling district PW4 defined by Down End Road, the A27, the slipway from the motorway and the fields to the north (+508)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 27,472 (-0.8% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.8 Fareham Warsash

2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,214 (-19.0% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the south-western section of the borough and includes Warsash and the central part of Locks Heath as well as a large area of open country and farmland fronting the Solent. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Locks Heath
- Warsash

Fareham Warsash is forecast to have an electorate very significantly below the 2021 Hampshire average, so (as described above) to achieve electoral equality it is necessary to add polling districts from Titchfield. TC3 and TC4 adjoin the current built-up area in Fareham Warsash and it is believed that this solution does not infringe community identity.

Proposal for Fareham Warsash

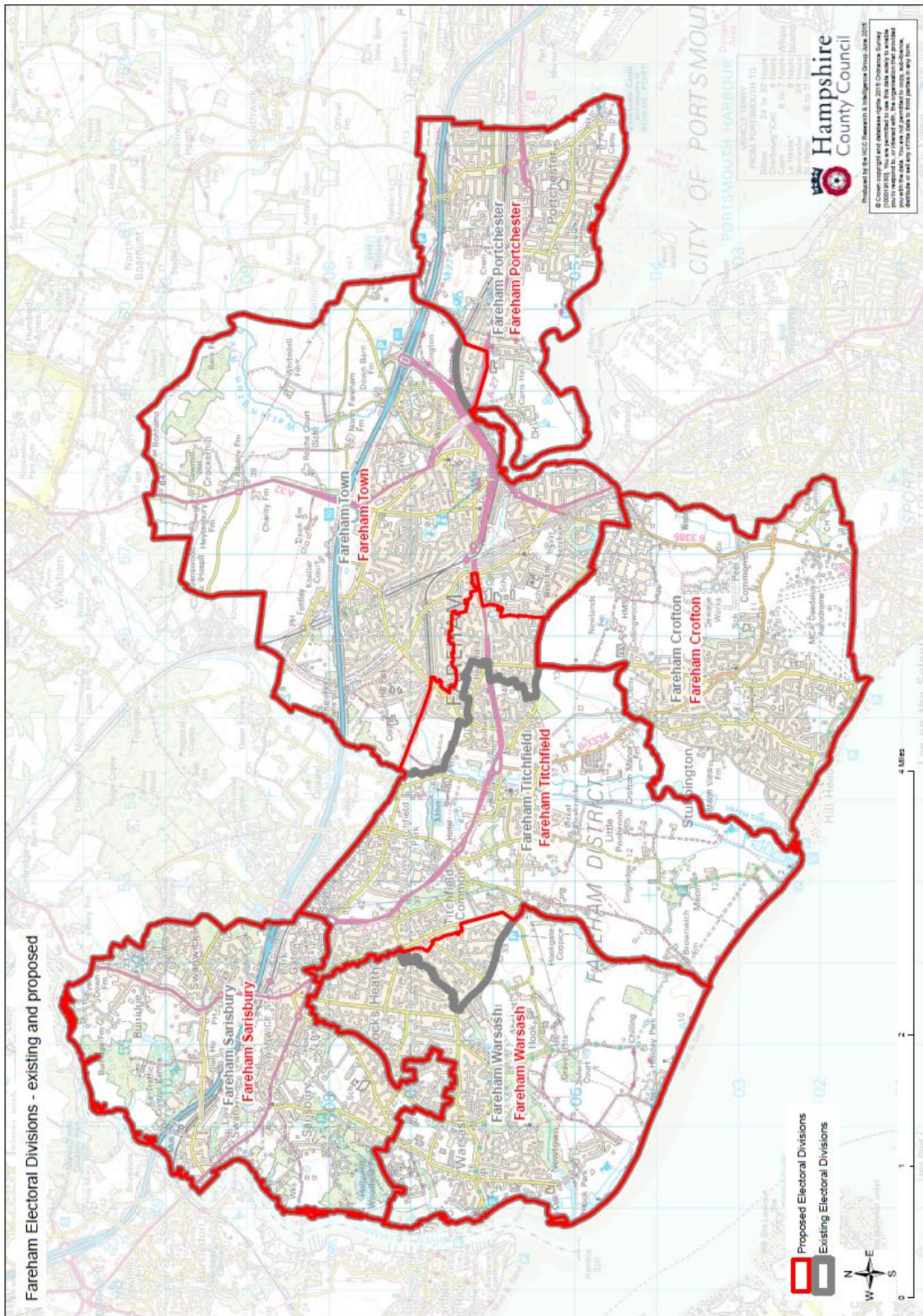
- Add polling districts TC3 and TC4 (+2,455)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,669 (-1.3% against forecast Hampshire average)

5.9 Proposals for Fareham

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
Fareham Crofton	1	11,665	-15.8%	11,665	-15.8%
Fareham Portchester	1	14,117	+2.0%	13,609	-1.7%
Fareham Sarisbury	1	13,456	-2.8%	13,456	-2.8%
Fareham Titchfield	1	11,641	-15.9%	13,105	-5.4%
Fareham Town	2	30,883	+11.5%	27,472	-0.8%
Fareham Warsash	1	11,214	-19.0%	13,669	-1.3%
Total	7	92,976		92,976	

Map of Proposed County Council Divisions in Fareham



Proposed division boundaries shown are approximate, based on polling district boundaries mapped using the best information available from Fareham Borough Council