

8. Havant

8.1 About Havant

Havant Borough is the south-easternmost district in Hampshire, adjoining West Sussex and the city of Portsmouth. While relatively small in geographical terms, Havant has a significant population (123,000 in 2015) and plays a major role in the economy of this area of the county.

Due to its position between Portsmouth, Petersfield and Chichester, Havant has long been the crossing-point of two major corridors, both of which have determined the shape of today's road and rail networks. The north-south route between Portsmouth and London passes through Havant in the form of the A3/A3(M) and the Portsmouth Line railway, giving good access to Surrey and London Waterloo. Meanwhile the east-west coastal M27/A27 route passes through the middle of the borough en-route between south Hampshire and Chichester/Brighton. Major road and rail routes and junctions are therefore a defining feature of Havant's economic geography.

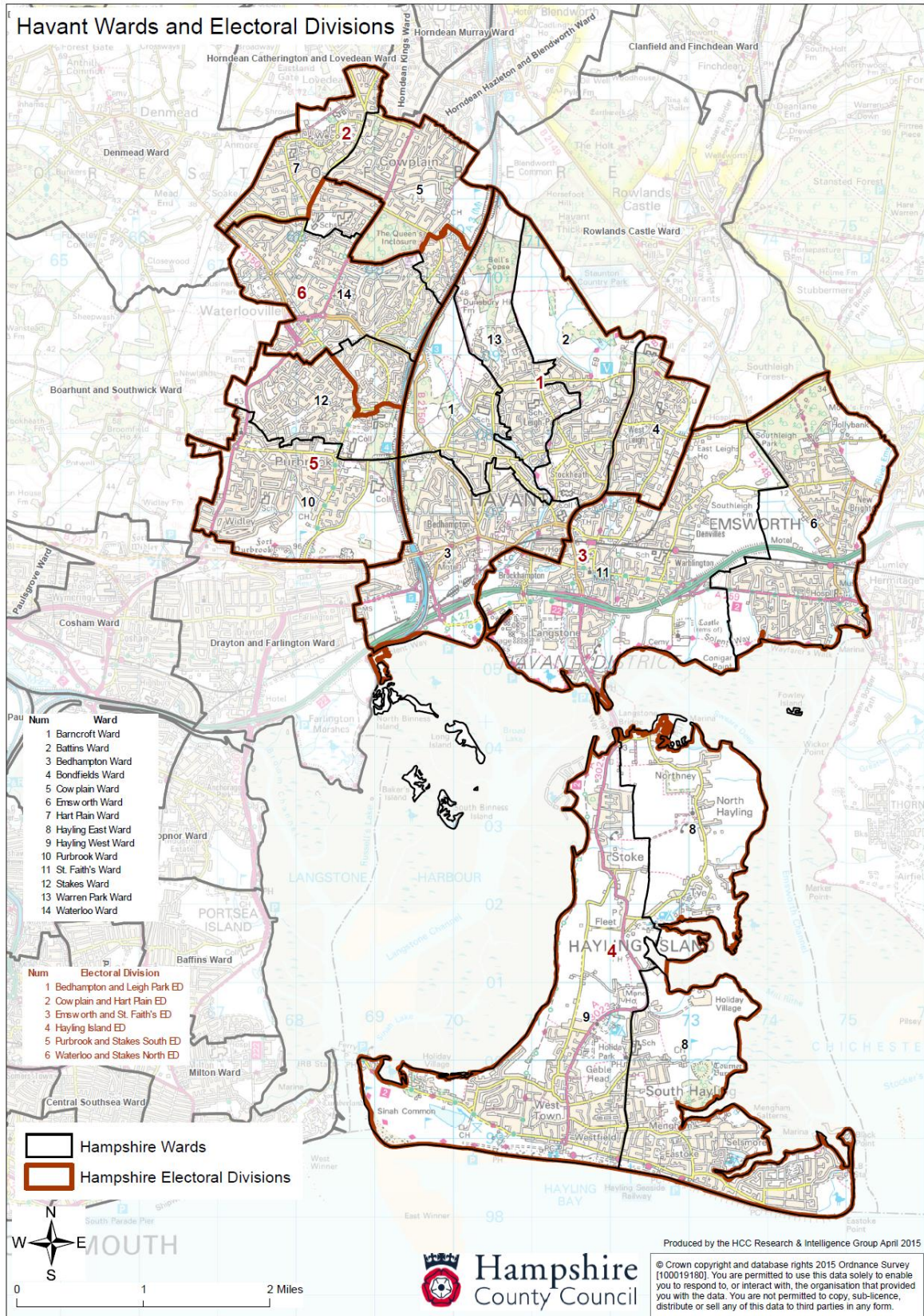
The borough is made up of three distinct areas, each with their own character and with natural boundaries between them:

- Hayling Island, separated from the rest of the borough by Langstone and Chichester Harbours
- The area west of the A3(M) centred around Waterlooville
- The area east of the A3(M), covering three different communities (Emsworth, Havant and Bedhampton) plus the Leigh Park estate

Development in Havant has happened over a long period but there was a sharp increase after the Second World War when agricultural land north of Havant town was redeveloped into the Leigh Park estate. This large residential area was created to house Portsmouth residents whose homes had been destroyed by bombing. Other areas have also been developed and Waterlooville and Havant in particular are now large urban settlements.

Havant is a varied borough and there are many contrasts between, for example, the urban centres on the mainland and the pastoral centre of Hayling Island. Some parts of Havant, notably the Leigh Park area but also parts of Waterlooville, show relatively high levels of deprivation. The borough's position on two harbours means that marine leisure activities are a central part of the local economy, with Hayling Island being a renowned centre for windsurfing and a Lifeboat Station.

Map of Existing County Council Divisions in Havant



8.2 County Council Divisions in Havant

There are currently seven County Councillors from Havant, 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
Bedhampton & Leigh Park	2	26,602	+1.7%	27,193	-1.8%
Cowplain & Hart Plain	1	12,078	-7.7%	12,386	-10.5%
Emsworth & St. Faiths	1	15,246	+16.6%	17,577	+26.9%
Hayling Island	1	14,235	+8.8%	15,004	+8.4%
Purbrook & Stakes South	1	12,523	-4.3%	12,726	-8.1%
Waterloo & Stakes North	1	13,275	+1.5%	13,676	-1.2%
Total	7	93,959		98,562	

The County Council's proposal is that in future there should be seven Councillors, each representing one single-Member division. The current two-Member Division of Bedhampton & Leigh Park would then be split into two divisions, each with a new division name. The reasons for this proposed change are set out below. No other name changes are proposed.

Devising boundary changes to divisions within Havant is made difficult by the fact that the natural separation of the borough into three areas, as described above, provides constraints to possible solutions to the current variations in the size of the electorate in future divisions. The County Council's proposal treats the three area boundaries as inviolate.

The proposals for Havant were co-ordinated by Councillor Liz Fairhurst, one of the two Members for Bedhampton & Leigh Park, and were discussed with and agreed by all current Havant County Councillors.

8.3 Bedhampton & Leigh Park

2021 Electorate Forecast: 27,193 (-1.8% against Hampshire average)

This division covers the central part of Havant Borough including most of the town centre other than the south-east part around the station. Most of the division is densely built-up, including the large post-war development of Leigh Park. However, there is open country to the north, which adjoins

Staunton Country Park. The A3(M) forms a hard eastern boundary and joins the A27/M27 at the southernmost end of the division. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Barncroft
- Battins
- Bedhampton
- Bondfields
- Warren Park

Bedhampton & Leigh Park has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is well within the +/-10% threshold, so no action is strictly necessary to achieve electoral equality. However, there are significant pressures arising from Emsworth & St Faiths, so action is needed to transfer voters from that division into Bedhampton & Leigh Park. This should not however be done without considering the future of Bedhampton & Leigh Park as a two-Member division. Councillor Liz Fairhurst comments:

“The Bedhampton & Leigh Park double division was only created in 2004 and has not worked well. It contains four of the most deprived wards in Hampshire and thus produces a much higher caseload than other divisions, and it is also politically unsettled. It has always been represented by two councillors from different political parties (Labour/Liberal Democrat, Conservative/Liberal Democrat, Conservative/UKIP), and no political party has a strong hold over it. Hence it is a constant political battleground (at both county and borough levels).

This increased workload will only get worse as by 2021 the electorate in the current double division will increase from the current 26,602 to 28,395 (with the transfer from Emsworth & St Faiths – *see below*) and will form a 300-degree arc around St Faiths so that people from the north east corner of the constituency will be lumped together with those from the south west corner.”

It is therefore proposed that two single councillor divisions be re-created of approximately equal size: North West Havant and North East Havant. This proposal is supported by both County Councillors currently representing the double division. The area which would be covered by each new division is set out below and in both cases represents the best contiguous grouping of wards and polling districts that absorbs St Faiths’ excess.

Proposal for North West Havant

- Bedhampton, Barncroft and the Warren (polling district HC of Warren Park Ward), with a forecast electorate in 2021 of 14,114. This is a

continuous area, which overcomes the arbitrary local authority dividing line between Bedhampton and Barncroft wards and adds part of Leigh Park that has a separate identity from the rest. Polling district DA from St Faiths lies on the boundary of St Faiths and Bedhampton and would transfer to this new division (+584).

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,698 (+6.2% against forecast Hampshire average)

Proposal for North East Havant

- The remainder of Leigh Park: Battins, Warren Park Ward below Middle Park Way (part of the Leigh Park community, although in the same ward as the Warren), and Bondfields, with a forecast electorate in 2021 of 13,079. Polling district DE from St Faiths, which is geographically next to Bondfields, would be transferred to this new division (+2,002).

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 15,081 (+8.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

Councillor Fairhurst comments: “This proposal brings together the wards and polling districts that are closest geographically and avoids, as far as possible, splitting communities. The new names are required as even the single divisions proposed bring together people from different communities. The electorate of polling district DE think of themselves as living in Denvilles or Havant and certainly not Leigh Park, and North West Havant includes polling district DA from Havant, and the communities of Bedhampton, Barncroft and the Warren.”

8.4 Cowplain & Hart Plain

2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,386 (-10.5% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division represents the northern tip of the borough west of the A3(M). It is almost completely built-up and merges into settlements in the south of East Hampshire. To the west, however, there is a gap between Cowplain & Hart Plain and Denmead in Winchester district, and the division also includes Queen's Inclosure Woods, a remnant of the original Forest of Bere. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Cowplain (79%)
- Hart Plain (82%)

Like the other divisions west of the A3(M), Cowplain & Hart Plain has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is well below the Hampshire average and it would be preferable to increase the geographical size of the division to bring it within or near to the -10% threshold. However, as noted above, the area west of the A3(M) is a distinct part of Havant that is extremely difficult to extend to areas east and south because the road is such a significant physical barrier. Furthermore, of the five wards that comprise the three divisions, three are split between divisions. There is no solution that brings all three divisions with the -10% threshold. However, to better reflect natural local communities it is proposed that polling district Hart Plain LE be transferred from Waterloo & Stakes North as this unites Hart Plain ward within one division.

Proposal for Cowplain & Hart Plain

- Add Hart Plain LE (+1,476)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,862 (+0.1% against forecast Hampshire average)

8.5 Emsworth & St. Faiths

2021 Electorate Forecast: 17,577 (+26.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the south-eastern tip of Hampshire. It includes two main settlements: the village of Emsworth and the ward of St Faiths, the south-eastern part of Havant town. Away from the town Emsworth and St Faiths is tightly bounded by Langstone Harbour, West Sussex and the district of East Hampshire. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Emsworth
- St. Faiths

Following significant new housing development, Emsworth & St Faiths has a forecast electorate in 2021 that shows the third-highest variance above the average in Hampshire. It is therefore essential to reduce the geographical size of the division to bring it within or near to the +10% threshold. The only option is to move polling districts nearest to the current Bedhampton & Leigh Park into the proposed new North West Havant and North East Havant divisions. DA polling district was previously part of Bedhampton and Members report that many of the residents felt it was not right to be added to St Faiths. There is no particular link between DE polling district and Leigh Park, but without this move Emsworth & St Faiths remains far too big.

Proposal for Emsworth & St. Faiths

- Transfer polling district St Faiths DA to North West Havant (-584)
- Transfer polling district St Faiths DE to North East Havant (-2,002)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,991 (+9.5% against forecast Hampshire average)

8.6 **Hayling Island**

2021 Electorate Forecast: 15,004 (+8.4% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division is the only island division in Hampshire. Hayling Island lies between Langstone Harbour and Chichester Harbour, to the south of Havant Town. It is connected to the mainland by a single bridge and to Eastney in Portsmouth by a (commercially vulnerable) ferry service. Most of the residents live in the south of the island, away from the Havant end. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Hayling East
- Hayling West

Due to its island geography Hayling Island is a natural electoral division and could not easily be joined to one on the mainland. Fortunately its projected 2021 electorate falls within the +10% threshold and no changes are proposed to this division.

Proposal for Hayling Island

- Retain whole of current division

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 15,004 (+8.4% against forecast Hampshire average)

8.7 **Purbrook & Stakes South**

2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,726 (-8.1% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the southern part of the Waterlooville area. It is bounded by the A3(M) in the east, Portsmouth city in the south and Winchester district in the west. Purbrook & Stakes South is heavily built-up, with some further development to come as part of the Newlands development shared with Winchester district, but there is also an area of open country to the south. The division currently includes the following

wards:

- Purbrook
- Stakes (68%)

Purbrook & Stakes South has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is below the Hampshire average and it would be preferable to increase the geographical size of the division to bring it within or near to the county average. However, as noted above the A3(M) makes transferring boundaries between the east and west part of Havant impossible without rupturing the natural local communities that exist on each side. Given that Purbrook & Stakes South's projected electorate is within the -10% threshold no changes are therefore proposed to this division.

Proposal for Purbrook & Stakes South

- Retain whole of current division

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,726 (-8.1% against forecast Hampshire average)

8.8 Waterloo & Stakes North

2021 Electorate Forecast: 13,676 (-1.2% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the central part of Waterlooville including the main shopping and commercial areas and parts of wards shared with other divisions. It developed as a stopping-point along the route of the old London-Portsmouth road (the A3); the division is now entirely built-up and will adjoin the new settlement of Newlands to the west. Like the other divisions on this side of Havant, Waterloo & Stakes North has a hard boundary on its eastern flank in the form of the A3(M). The division currently includes the following wards:

- Cowplain (21%)
- Hart Plain (18%)
- Stakes (32%)
- Waterloo

Waterloo & Stakes North has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is slightly below the Hampshire average and no change is necessary to achieve electoral equality. However, as noted above we propose to unite Hart Plain ward within one division. Transferring Hart Plain LE polling district to Cowplain & Hart Plain reflects the natural local community, but leaves

Waterloo & Stakes North slightly outside the -10% threshold. The County Council believes this to be the preferable solution but the County Council would accept it if the Commission did not agree.

Proposal for Waterloo & Stakes North

- Transfer Hart Plain LE to Cowplain & Hart Plain (-1,476)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,200 (-11.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

8.9 Proposals for Havant

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
North East Havant	Share of 2	Share of 27,193	-1.8%	15,081	+8.9%
North West Havant	Share of 2	Share of 27,193	-1.8%	14,698	+6.2%
Cowplain & Hart Plain	1	12,386	-10.5%	13,862	+0.1%
Emsworth & St. Faiths	1	17,577	+26.9%	14,991	+8.3%
Hayling Island	1	15,004	+8.4%	15,004	+8.4%
Purbrook & Stakes South	1	12,726	-8.1%	12,726	-8.1%
Waterloo & Stakes North	1	13,676	-1.2%	12,200	-11.9%
Total	7	98,562		98,562	

Map of Proposed County Council Divisions in Havant

