

Ms Gillian Beasley
Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

10 May 2016

Dear Ms Beasley,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has opened a public consultation on its new draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council.

The consultation opens today, 10 May 2016, and closes on 20 June 2016.

The draft recommendations propose that 61 county councillors should be elected to Cambridgeshire County Council. The recommendations also propose new electoral division boundaries across the county.

Following publication of its final recommendations in February 2016, the Commission received representations from local people and organisations who felt that their voices had not been fully heard during previous phases of the review. The Commission investigated the issues raised and concluded that it should publish new draft recommendations for the whole county and consult on them.

The Commission welcomes views on any aspect of its recommendations in any part of the county. In particular, the Commission draws attention to two specific areas that were the subject of complaints in the previous phase of the review:

- Cambridge City (Abbey and Petersfield divisions) – the Commission proposes that the boundary between the two divisions runs along St Matthew's Street, Norfolk Street and behind properties on Upper Gwydir Street, Fairsford Place and York Street. The Commission welcomes views on the recommendation and/or proposals for an alternative boundary that delivers electoral equality for voters and reflects community ties.
- East Cambridgeshire – a council size of 61 for Cambridgeshire would mean an allocation of eight county councillors to the district. The Commission would

welcome views on its proposed scheme of divisions across the district as well as any alternative patterns that would reflect its statutory criteria.

The Commission will consider all the responses to the consultation and welcomes views on any aspect of the recommendations for all parts of the county.

The Commission aims to publish final recommendations in September 2016. We will then lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament under the negative resolution procedure. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at the county elections in 2017.

All information relating to the new draft recommendations is available on our website. The Commission's report on its new draft recommendations can also be found at: www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-county-council. In addition, hard copies of the report and accompanying map will be dispatched to the Council shortly.

Interactive maps of the proposals are posted on the Commission's consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>. The portal also allows visitors to submit comments and alternative proposals.

Publicising the consultation

The Commission will shortly dispatch hard copies of the recommendations to the council for distribution to local information points. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members.

We have also provided information on the draft recommendations directly to district and parish councils and community organisations as well as notifying local press and media.

I would be grateful if you could also take steps to bring the consultation to the attention of the public and interested parties. In particular, please include details of the consultation:

- On your website;
- Promote the consultation through social media and;
- Use any other channels you would normally employ to engage residents in local consultations (newsletters, press releases, publications etc.).

The Commission would be happy to provide information and/or copy to help you promote the consultation locally.

New draft recommendations

The Commission's new draft recommendations mirror the proposals that were published in February 2016. In compiling the recommendations, we have sought to balance the criteria we must follow when drawing up recommendations, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each county councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county.
- That the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

The Commission will consider all representations made on the new draft recommendations and has an open mind about amending the scheme if an alternative pattern of divisions would better meet the statutory criteria above. It is also important for respondents to the consultation to indicate where and why they support the draft recommendations.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of electoral divisions and putting forward alternative proposals is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf .

We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/10409/proposing-new-wards-guidance.pdf.

As ever, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the consultation.

Correspondence and enquiries

Correspondence relating to the review – and consultation responses - should be addressed to:

Review Officer (Cambridgeshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Responses to the consultation can also be made directly through our specialist consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; Fax: 0330 500 1526; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; www.lgbce.org.uk

Further information on electoral reviews can also be found at our main website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk.

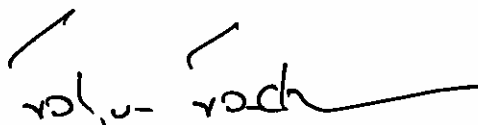
Your direct contacts for the review remain:

Alex Hinds, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review: email: alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1274.

Richard Buck, Review Manager, leads the team dealing with this and other electoral reviews: email: richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1271.

I am copying this letter to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely,



Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
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0330 500 1290

cc MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Cambridgeshire
 Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
 Local organisations in Cambridgeshire
 Parish and Town Councils in Cambridgeshire
 District, City and Borough Councils in Cambridgeshire