

The  
**Local Government  
Boundary Commission**  
for England

22 September 2015

Dear Chief Executives,

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICTS**

I am writing to inform you that the Commission is inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral divisions for East Sussex County Council and ward boundaries for each of the county's five districts. The consultation is part of our electoral review of all local authorities in the county.

The Commission has also announced the number of councillors it is minded to recommend for each authority which are shown below:

Local Authority	Current number of councillors	Recommended number of councillors	Change
East Sussex County Council	49	50	Increase of 1
Eastbourne Borough Council	27	27	No change
Hastings Borough Council	32	32	No change
Lewes District Council	41	41	No change
Rother District Council	38	38	No change
Wealden District Council	55	45	Reduction of 10

The Commission now invites proposals from the council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of county divisions and district wards to accommodate those councillors.

The consultation begins to today and will end on 30 November 2015.

**Publicising the review**

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members. A copy of the Commission's press release and posters advertising this stage of the review are being sent to your Council. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the consultation by arranging for copies to be placed on display at local information points, and by taking such other steps as you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties. In particular, we would appreciate it if you could promote the consultation online, via social media and any other channels you would normally use to engage

residents.

Further details about the review are available on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) where there is information about how to get involved and the kind of evidence the Commission is seeking in support of any proposed scheme of divisions and wards. We have also created a web page for each local authority which includes further information and guidance on taking part in the review.

In addition, the Commission's consultation portal allows visitors to interact with online maps of the current electoral divisions and wards, draw their own boundaries and feed views into the consultation process directly. The portal is available at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk).

Submissions can also be made by email to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) and by post to the address at the end of this letter.

### **Review timetable**

This phase of consultation closes on **30 November 2015**.

Once the Commission has considered all the proposals received during this phase of consultation, it plans to publish draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for all six councils in March 2016. Public consultation on the draft recommendations is scheduled to take place between March 2016 and June 2016. Once the Commission has considered the representations and evidence as part of that consultation, it intends to publish final recommendations in September 2016.

New electoral arrangements for the county are scheduled to come into effect at the next scheduled elections following the completion of the review. This means that new electoral arrangements for East Sussex County Council will come into effect in May 2017, 2018 for Hastings and 2019 for the other districts in the county.

### **Creating a pattern of wards and divisions**

In drawing up a pattern of wards and electoral divisions, the Commission must balance its three statutory criteria, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others in that local authority.
- That the pattern of wards and 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.

In drawing up county division boundaries, the Commission will also consider the desirability of ensuring that they are coterminous with the new district ward boundaries.

The table below summarises the overall framework within which the Commission plans to draw up its recommendations which you may find useful to guide your own

proposals. In particular, the table includes the number of county councillors which are allocated to each district under a total council size of 50. The table also shows how many electors per councillor the Commission will aim to achieve in its scheme to deliver electoral fairness as well as any constraints on potential warding patterns such as the Commission's statutory duty to favour a uniform pattern of two-member wards across Hastings:

Local Authority	No. of district cllrs	No. of county cllrs	Electors per district cllr	Electors per county cllr	Notes
East Sussex County Council	N/A	50	N/A	8651	Possible mixed pattern of divisions (single- or multi-member)
Eastbourne Borough Council	27	9	2844	8651	Possible mixed pattern of wards (one-, two- or three-member wards)
Hastings Borough Council	32	8	2065	8651	Presumption in favour of two-member wards to reflect electoral cycle
Lewes District Council	41	9	1993	8651	Possible mixed pattern of wards (one-, two- or three-member wards)
Rother District Council	38	9	2027	8651	Possible mixed pattern of wards (one-, two- or three-member wards)
Wealden District Council	45	15	2909	8651	Possible mixed pattern of wards (one-, two- or three-member wards)

The Commission will test proposals against the criteria before drawing up draft recommendations. Accordingly, all proposals should demonstrate how they meet the three requirements. The Commission will take decisions based on the strength of the evidence presented to it and not merely on assertion. For example, details of community interests such as the location and use made of local facilities, services and local organisations will carry greater weight than submissions that simply assert the that an area has community identity.

The Commission will consider all submissions on their merit. A well-evidenced submission from an individual which addresses the three statutory criteria will be more persuasive than one which does not, even if the latter is from an elected individual or body.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of wards or electoral divisions is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance> .

We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at

[http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-08-04.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-08-04.pdf).

Our website includes information about previous electoral reviews where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other counties, districts and parishes built their own pattern of divisions and wards.

Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any questions. Officers at the Commission will be happy to assist with technical aspects of your ward/division scheme either in person or via email or telephone.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

Correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

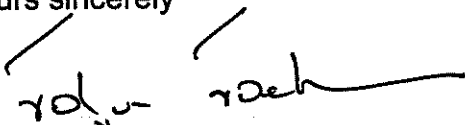
Review Officer (East Sussex)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower,  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

or direct to your main contacts at the Commission who will be:

- Jo Porter, Review Officer  
Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 0330 500 1279.
- Lucy Ward, Review Officer  
Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 0330 500 1281.
- Tim Bowden, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews  
Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 0330 500 1270.

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

Yours sincerely



**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
[Reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:Reviews@lgbce.org.uk)  
0330 500 1290

- cc
- MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in East Sussex
  - Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
  - Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Sussex Police Headquarters
  - Local organisations in East Sussex
  - Parish and town councils in East Sussex
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups in East Sussex