
From: Dunkeyson, Nicholas
Sent: 31 October 2013 09:13
To: Vallotton, Sarah
Subject: RE: Three Rivers questions

Hi Sarah,

It's [REDACTED]

Nicholas Dunkeyson
Review Officer

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
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How Are We Doing?

It would help us if you would take a few minutes to answer a few questions about your experience of the review process so far and how we dealt with you.

Please click on this link to go to our online survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/respondingtoreviews>

From: Vallotton, Sarah
Sent: 30 October 2013 17:06
To: Dunkeyson, Nicholas
Subject: RE: Three Rivers questions

Hi Nick,

Thanks for sending this through. I don't have an email address for [REDACTED], so I can't acknowledge or reply. Do you have it anywhere please?

Thanks

Sarah.

Sarah Vallotton
Business and Committee Services Manager
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
3rd Floor Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street

London EC1M 5LG
Tel: 020 7664 8522
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From: Dunkeyson, Nicholas
Sent: 30 October 2013 16:03
To: Vallotton, Sarah
Subject: FW: Three Rivers questions

Sarah,

The original enquiry/FOI is below, with the response drafted by us (well, Marcus), below that.

Let me know if you need any more information.

Thanks,

Nick.

Hello,

I have just read the recent press release on the final proposal for the above.

Within the statement it refers to "The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Three Rivers District Council"; referring to this statement I would like to know:

1. Who are the members of the LG Boundary Commission for England?
2. How were they appointed to their roles?
3. What qualifications and experience do they have?
4. Who instructed them to produce a report?
5. When were they instructed to produce the report?
6. What was the reason for producing the report?

Within the statement it refers to "with the criteria we must apply when we are deciding on new electoral arrangements"; referring to this statement I would like to know:

1. What is the criteria?
2. Who determined the criteria?
3. When was it determined?
4. How was the criteria applied?
5. What criteria determined/produced the decision that Oxhey Hall should be combined with Hayling?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

██████████

██████████

[REDACTED]
By Email to:
[REDACTED]

18 November 2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Our ref: 10/13

Thank you for your email of 22 October, which was received the same day, requesting information relating to the Electoral Review of Three Rivers. As explained in my earlier acknowledgement, we believe that your enquiry amounts to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and this response has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

You have requested:

Information relating to the LGBCE's recent press release on the final proposal for the Three Rivers District Council as follows:

1. Who are the members of the LG Boundary Commission for England?
2. How were they appointed to their roles?
3. What qualifications and experience do they have?
4. Who instructed them to produce a report?
5. When were they instructed to produce the report?
6. What was the reason for producing the report?

Information relating to the criteria applied when making decisions on electoral arrangements.

In relation to this to this you have also requested:

1. What is the criteria?
2. Who determined the criteria?
3. When was it determined?
4. How was the criteria applied?
5. What criteria determined/produced the decision that Oxhey Hall should be combined with Hayling?

The Commission does hold information relevant to your request. I have reproduced each of your questions with the Commission's response beneath and with links to publications that are available on our website.

1. Who are the members of the LG Boundary Commission for England?

There are six Commissioners appointed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Their details and experience are available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/commissioners>. This link also provides the answer to your question 3.

2. How were they appointed to their roles?

Commissioners are appointed by HM The Queen on the advice of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Chair of the Commission is appointed by HM The Queen on the advice of the Speaker's Committee of the House of Commons, a cross-party committee of MPs which is chaired by the Speaker.

3. What qualifications and experience do they have?

Please see the link under question 1 for details of Commissioners' qualifications and experience.

4. Who instructed them to produce a report?

The Commission carried out an electoral review of Three Rivers District Council following a formal request by the council received in November 2010.

5. When were they instructed to produce the report?

The Commission received the request for the review from the council in November 2010. The review was then included in the Commission's work programme to commence in July 2012.

6. What was the reason for producing the report?

The Commission carries out electoral reviews when local authorities request one where they think such a review can help them deliver effective and convenient local government. The Commission also carries out electoral reviews where there are high electoral variances within a local authority, namely where, through development or the movement of people, some councillors represent many more – or many fewer – voters than their colleagues elsewhere in that district/borough/city/county. The Commission carried out the review of Three Rivers District Council, and produced its reports, under the first of these categories.

You also asked for information relating to our press statement which said “the criteria we must apply when we are deciding on new electoral arrangements”. In this section, I have also reproduced your questions with the Commission’s response to each individually, as follows:

1. What is the criteria?

The criteria used by the Commission for determining ward boundaries are set out in legislation. In particular, Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 sets out the matters to which the Commission must have regard in an electoral review. The main areas relevant to the Three Rivers District Council review are set out below:

the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must have regard to—

(a) the need to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of members of the district council to be elected is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the council,

(b) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and in particular—

*(i) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and
(ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties,*

(c) the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and

(d) in the case of a district council that is subject to a scheme for elections by halves or by thirds, or that has resolved to revert to being subject to such a scheme under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

(c. 28), the desirability of securing that each electoral area of the district council returns an appropriate number of members of the council.

2. Who determined the criteria?

The criteria were determined by Parliament.

3. When was it determined?

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act became law in 2009.

4. How was the criteria applied?

In coming to its conclusions, the Commission considers all the evidence it receives during public consultation against the statutory criteria set out above and seeks to find the most appropriate balance between them in its recommendations. You can read the full description of the Commission's reasoning for its draft recommendations in the report from this link: www.lgbce.org.uk/_documents/lgbce/reviews/three-rivers-fer/draft-recommendations/three-rivers-draft-recommendations-report.pdf.

Its final recommendations, and a description of how the Commission sought to balance the statutory criteria, are available at this link:

www.lgbce.org.uk/_documents/lgbce/reviews/three-rivers-fer/final-recommendations/threerivers-finalrecs-report-2013-10-22.pdf.

5. What criteria determined/produced the decision that Oxhey Hall should be combined with Hayling?

The Commission sets out its reasoning behind its decisions in all its published reports. The final report, and the reasoning for its decision to recommend a Oxhey Hall & Hayling ward, are set out in the report in the link above. In particular, paragraphs 49-79 (pages 10-13) relate to the area you refer to and surrounding parts of the district.

I hope that you find the information provided in this response helpful.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence.

If you wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to me at:

Sarah Vallotton
Business & Committee Services Manager
Local Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Vallotton
Business & Committee Services Manager
Sarah.vallotton@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8522