

Mr Andrew Gabbitas
Deputy Chief Executive
Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby CV21 2RR

28 September 2010

Dear Mr Gabbitas

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF RUGBY

The purpose of this letter is to formally announce the start of the first consultation stage on ward patterns in the electoral review of Rugby Borough Council.

The Commission has consulted on the proposed council size for Rugby and is currently minded to recommend 42 elected members. Consequently, proposals for ward arrangements should be based on this council size.

I should stress that the Commission's conclusions may be subject to change depending on the evidence received during the next consultation period. The decision, at this stage, provides a context within which local stakeholders can submit their views on the wider electoral arrangements for the borough. During the review, the Commission may consider that the council size requires slight adjustment to provide for warding patterns that better reflect electoral equality and community identity.

In developing a warding pattern, you should be aware of the presumption, as set out in legislation, that a council that elects by thirds (as is the case of Rugby) should have a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Further details on this can be found in our technical guidance which can be downloaded from our website.

Next steps

The procedures which the Commission will be following in conducting the

review are set out in its guidance, *Electoral reviews: what they are and how you can get involved*, copies of which were sent to your Council at the start of the review. I would ask you to make copies of the guidance available for inspection at your main offices. Further copies of the guidance are available on request.

A more detailed technical guidance document *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at www.lgbce.org.uk. This document contains all the statutory information about the review process. Please note that this document is not available in hard copy.

Your Council is invited to submit representations on the new warding arrangements no later than **20 December 2010**.

Advertising the review

A copy of the Commission's press release is enclosed and posters about the review have also been sent to your Council. We will also be sending posters to parish and town councils in Rugby, and the MPs with constituencies in the borough. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the start of consultation by placing copies of the poster on display, and by taking such other steps you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties.

Review timetable

During this consultation period, the Commission is inviting representations on ward electoral arrangements, before preparing draft recommendations. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in the spring of 2011. The draft recommendations will be made available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk, with hard copies of the report available on request. There will be a ten-week period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Commission considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations. We expect to publish the final recommendations in the autumn of 2011.

The Commission takes the consultation periods in the review very seriously; because as a result of consultation the Commission may move away from its draft recommendations. It is particularly important that everyone is encouraged to express their views on the draft recommendations, whether or

not they agree with what has been proposed.

The Commission makes available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, representations will be made available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A copy of all representations will also be placed on deposit at the Commission's London office. We will also supply your Council with copies of all representations. Please make these available for public inspection together with any representations your Council might make.

Creating a warding pattern

The Commission aims to recommend a pattern of wards that achieves good electoral equality, reflects community identities and interests and provides for effective and convenient local government. It will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

Proposals should demonstrate how any pattern of wards aids the provision of effective and convenient local government and why any deterioration in equality of representation or community identity should be accepted. Representations that are supported by evidence and argument will carry more weight with the Commission than those which merely assert a point of view.

In developing a warding pattern, you should be aware of the presumption, as set out in legislation, that a council that elects by thirds should have a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Further details on this can be found in our technical guidance which can be downloaded from our website.

Correspondence and enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

Review Officer (Rugby)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

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

- Sarah Murphy, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review;
Email: sarah.murphy@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8528;
- Joan D'souza, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews.
Email: joan.dsouza@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8531.

I am writing on similar terms to the organisations and individuals listed below, and all those who submitted representations on council size during the first stage of the review.

Yours sincerely

Archie Gall

Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
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020 7664 8509

cc Warwickshire County Council
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Rugby
Headquarters of the main political parties
Warwickshire Police Authority
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority
Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils
Parish and town councils in Rugby