

Mr Sean Harriss
Chief Executive
Harrow Council
Civic Centre, Station Road
Harrow
HA1 2XY

2 April 2019

Dear Mr Harriss,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE HARROW: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION

Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for the Harrow, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision to hold a period of further limited consultation prior to publication of its final recommendations. This will involve our proposals for wards in Harrow Weald and Wealdstone. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence in relation to the rest of the borough. Therefore, this period of further limited consultation focuses on this area only. Below is a summary of the representations received and the Commission's decision on warding patterns for this area.

Harrow Weald and Wealdstone

We received a mixture of support and objections for our draft recommendations in this area. The Council expressed support for Harrow Weald ward. It also expressed general support for Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West wards, but proposed minor amendments between them to ensure the whole of Wealdstone town centre was in a single ward.

The Conservative Group and Councillors Greek, Chauhan and Patel all argued that Harrow Weald ward should extend south of Long Elmes to create a three-councillor ward. They argued that Long Elmes is a permeable boundary and that areas to the south have good community connections with areas to the north. They cited numerous examples of the 'Harrow Weald' name on businesses in this area as well as citing a number of community facilities that residents use. They also argued that the draft recommendations divide the Harrow Weald shopping area. They proposed a number of other amendments, including transferring an area of Wealdstone East ward to a new three-councillor Kempton West ward, while combining the remainder of Wealdstone ward into a single three-councillor ward. Finally, they proposed transferring the south area of Courtenay Avenue to Hatch End ward.

The Liberal Democrats proposed transferring an area of Belmont ward to the east of Kenton Lane to Harrow Weald ward arguing that it is isolated from the rest of Belmont ward by Stanmore Golf club and has poor access via Belmont Circle, and better links into Harrow Weald where residents access facilities.

The Commission was persuaded that the centre of Wealdstone should not be divided between wards. It was also persuaded that Harrow Weald ward should be expanded south of Long Elmes to create a three-councillor ward. However, it was not persuaded by the Conservative Group's subsequent amendments to Kenton West and Hatch End wards or by the Liberal Democrat proposals. The Commission noted that the Liberal Democrat proposals would have a significant knock on effect across the east of the borough for which there was insufficient evidence to justify.

The Commission has looked to see whether it is possible to create a three-councillor Harrow Weald ward, while limiting consequential amendments to the Wealdstone area. The Commission is minded to propose a three-councillor Harrow Weald ward, based on the Conservative Group proposal. However, to the south the Commission proposes amending the two-councillor Wealdstone East and three-councillor Wealdstone West wards to create the two-councillor wards of Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South – the reduction in the number of councillors reflects the fact that the Commission has decided to transfer the northern part of this area to Harrow Weald ward. These wards would be divided along Locket Road, with the whole of the town centre placed in Wealdstone South ward, reflecting the Council's wish to keep this in a single ward.

The Commission acknowledges that these proposals are a notable departure from its draft recommendations. Accordingly, it has decided there should be a period of further limited consultation to seek the views of residents and locally interested parties regarding whether the Commission should adopt the alternative warding pattern.

The Commission recognised that there was concern about the ward names for the two Wealdstone wards, with objections to the inclusion of compass points in them. However, there was no consensus on alternative names. At this stage the Commission proposes to retain the names with compass point references. However, if we note that there is some consensus for an alternative during the further limited consultation, we may amend the ward names.

A summary of the proposed wards in the Harrow Weald and Wealdstone area is shown in the table below:

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Variance from average %
Harrow Weald	3	10,788	7%	10,526	0%

Wealdstone North	2	6,533	-3%	6,387	-9%
Wealdstone South	2	5,042	-25%	6,663	-5%

Maps of the revised recommendations can be seen on the Commission's website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/harrow>

This period of further limited consultation commences today, 2 April 2019, and closes on 29 April 2019. During this period, the Commission welcomes comments and supporting evidence on its revised recommendations for Harrow Weald, Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South wards

The Commission's final recommendations for the Harrow will now be published on 4 June 2019.

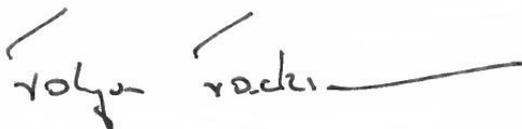
All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account and the Commission will then consider the evidence received prior to the publication of its final recommendations.

Representations should be made in writing to reviews@lgbce.org.uk or:
Review Officer (Harrow)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

Following the conclusion of this further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations for the Harrow.

If you have any queries, please contact Paul Kingsley, the Review Officer responsible for the review: paul.kingsley@lgbce.org.uk or 0330 500 1275.

Yours sincerely,



Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1525