

Mr Ian Thomas CBE
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Guildhall
Kingston upon Thames
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16 June 2020

Dear Mr Thomas,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES COUNCIL: NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

As you will be aware, the Commission halted its consultation on draft recommendations on 27th March, after identifying seven submissions that were not considered. We are now opening a new draft recommendations consultation for six weeks. The Commission has looked at the submissions we missed and considered them as part of these draft recommendations. The ward boundaries and names in these revised recommendations are the same as in the original draft recommendations.

The consultation opens today (16 June) and closes on 27 July 2020. The Commission will consider all submissions made when the consultation was open between 2 and 27 March, as well as those made now.

The draft recommendations propose that 48 borough councillors should be elected to Kingston upon Thames Council in future. The recommendations also propose new electoral ward boundaries across the borough.

Once the Commission has considered all the responses to the consultation, we aim to publish final recommendations in November 2020. 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 borough elections in 2022.

All information relating to the draft recommendations is available on our website. The Commission's report on its draft recommendations can also be found at: www.lgbce.org.uk. In addition, digital copies of the report and accompanying map have been sent to the council.

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0TL

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

Publicising the consultation

The Commission has sent digital copies of the recommendations to the council. 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 local 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. 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.

Draft recommendations

The Commission considered all the submissions it received in the previous stages of the review before drawing up the draft recommendations.

We have sought to balance the criteria we must follow when drawing up recommendations, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each borough councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough.
- That the pattern of wards 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 draft recommendations and has an open mind about amending the scheme if an alternative pattern of wards 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 wards and putting forward alternative proposals is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance*, which can be found at:

[http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/technical-guidance-2014%20\(reduced\).pdf](http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/technical-guidance-2014%20(reduced).pdf).

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

[http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/Guidance/How%20to%20propose%20a%20pattern%20of%20wards%20\(2018\).pdf](http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/Guidance/How%20to%20propose%20a%20pattern%20of%20wards%20(2018).pdf).

Our website includes information about previous electoral reviews of borough councils where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other counties, districts and parishes responded to consultations on draft recommendations.

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:

LGBCE c/o
Innovation House
Coniston Court
Riverside Business Park
Blyth
NE24 4RP

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

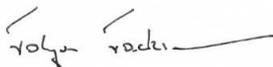
Responses to the consultation can also be made directly through our specialist consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

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

Your direct contacts for the review:

- Yemi Fagun, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
- Richard Otterway, Review Manager, leads the team dealing with this and other electoral reviews.

Yours sincerely



Jolyon Jackson CBE

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