

Martin Esom  
Chief Executive  
Waltham Forest Council  
Waltham Forest Town Hall  
Forest Road  
Walthamstow E17 4JF

07 July 2020

Dear Mr Esom,

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WALTHAM FOREST: NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has opened a public consultation on new draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Waltham Forest Council.

The Commission considered 18 local submissions in drawing up its original draft recommendations for Waltham Forest, which were published on 17 December 2019. We received 94 submissions in response to our second consultation on the draft recommendations.

However, since the close of the second consultation, we noted that, due to an administrative error, 22 submissions were not considered during the formulation of the draft recommendations. We therefore took a decision to withdraw the original draft recommendations.

We have now considered all the submissions received to date to formulate a set of new draft recommendations. The ward boundaries and names in these new draft recommendations contain a number of significant changes to the original draft recommendations.

The consultation opens today (07 July) and closes on 14 September 2020.

The new draft recommendations propose that 60 councillors should be elected to Waltham Forest 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 December 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 council elections in 2022.

All information relating to the new draft recommendations is available on our website. The Commission's report on its new draft recommendations can also be found at: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). In addition, 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.

### **Publicising the consultation**

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members.

We have also provided information on the new 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.

### **New draft recommendations**

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

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

- To deliver electoral equality where each 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.

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

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The Commission will consider all representations made on the new 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 new 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 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 Cleardata  
Innovation House  
Coniston Court  
Riverside Business Park  
Blyth  
NE24 4RP

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

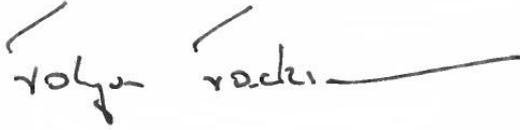
Responses to the consultation can also be made directly through our specialist consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

Further information on electoral reviews can also be found at our main website at: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

Your direct contacts for the review:

- Paul Kingsley, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
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