

Mr Gordon Mitchell  
Oxford City Council  
Town Hall  
St Aldate's  
Oxford  
OX1 1BX

5 June 2018

Dear Mr Mitchell,

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF OXFORD: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

The consultation opens today (**5 June 2018**) and closes on **13 August 2018**.

The draft recommendations propose that 48 city councillors should be elected to Oxford City Council in future. The recommendations also propose new electoral ward boundaries across the city.

Once the Commission has considered all the responses to the consultation, we aim to publish final recommendations in October 2018. 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 city elections in 2020.

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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). In addition, hard copies of the report and accompanying map will be dispatched to the council shortly.

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**

The Commission will shortly dispatch hard copies of the recommendations to the council for distribution to local information points. In the meantime, 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 parish 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 city councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the city.
- 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 city councils where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other counties, cities 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:

Review Officer (Oxford)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

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:

- Dan Carlsson-Hyslop, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
- Richard Buck, Review Manager, leads the team dealing with this and other electoral reviews.

Yours sincerely



**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)  
0330 500 1525

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; Fax: 0330 500 1526; [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)