Mr Ashley Ayre  
Chief Executive  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Lewis House  
Manvers Street  
Bath  
BA1 1JG  

15 May 2018  

Dear Mr Ayre,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION FOR BATH CITY

Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Bath & North East Somerset, 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 the city of Bath. The Commission has already finalised its recommendations for other areas of the district and these will be published once it has agreed its recommendations for the Bath city area.

During consultation, we received over 500 representations, most of which commented on our proposals for wards in the unparished city area. There were some submissions which supported our proposals, but the significant majority expressed opposition. Many respondents provided a great deal of evidence describing their community to substantiate their opposition to our proposals. Below I have summarised our revised proposals for the city.

Kingsmead, Lambridge, Lansdown, Walcot and Weston  
Our draft recommendations for this area proposed single-councillor Abbey, Lansdown and Larkhall wards, and two-councillor Kingsmead and Walcot wards. We received around 20 objections to the draft recommendations for Lansdown and over 80 objections to our proposals for Larkhall and Walcot.

In response to the evidence received, we now propose to include Bailbrook and Fairfield Park in a two-member Lambridge ward. Our proposed Lambridge ward differs slightly from the current ward around Claremont Road in order to ensure good electoral equality in
this and adjacent parts of Bath. We also propose a two-councillor Lansdown ward which differs from the existing ward by the inclusion of the area around St James’s Square and Rivers Street, and the exclusion of part of Camden Road.

In respect of Walcot ward we now propose that the lower part of Lansdown Road, The Paragon and Walcot Street be included in this ward. We also propose to include the whole of Camden Road and Upper Hedgemead Road in the ward. We additionally propose a two-councillor Kingsmead ward.

**Newbridge**

In our draft recommendations, we proposed to include Kelston and North Stoke in Newbridge ward. Those parishes have direct road connections only with Newbridge and with built-up areas on the eastern edge of Bristol, but not with other parishes in Bath and North East Somerset. We have based our revised proposals for Newbridge on the existing ward subject to the addition of Kelston and North Stoke and the exclusion of a small number of houses at the southern end of Gainsborough Gardens.

**Bathwick, Combe Down and Widcombe & Lyncombe**

We received many representations regarding this area. Our proposal that the River Avon form the northern boundary of Bathwick ward received support. However, our proposals to include the Dolemeads area in Bathwick and to exclude the University campus from the ward attracted opposition.

We proposed a single-councillor Claverton Down ward which would include the University campus and a two-councillor Combe Down ward. This area was the focus for the largest number of objections with over 170 representations, including a petition bearing 580 signatures. Having considered the evidence received, we now propose that the University campus should form part of Bathwick ward as it does now. This counterbalances the exclusion of the Dolemeads area from Bathwick ward to ensure good electoral equality.

Further criticisms of our Combe ward came from residents of the Entry Hill area and Perrymead who said they felt they belonged to the Widcombe community rather than to Combe Down. We therefore propose to exclude these areas from Combe Down ward as well as including the area extending from Ralph Allen Drive to Brassknocker Hill to ensure good electoral equality.

Our draft recommendations were for single councillor Lyncombe and Widcombe wards. We have been persuaded by the objections from the Bear Flat, Poets Corner, Magdalen Avenue and Entry Hill areas and now propose a two-councillor Widcombe and Lyncombe ward.

**Oldfield Park and Westmoreland**

Our proposed three-councillor Oldfield Park ward attracted over 60 objections. In order to provide for good levels of electoral equality throughout the southern part of the city, we propose that the whole of Moorland Road and Beckhampton Road should be included in Westmoreland ward. Our proposals are for a single-councillor Oldfield Park ward and a two-councillor Westmoreland ward.
**Moorlands, Southdown, Twerton and Odd Down**

In our draft recommendations, we proposed a single-councillor Moorlands ward and two-councillor Southdown, Twerton and Odd Down wards.

Our new proposals for this area are that Frome Road, including St Martins Garden Primary School and Bath Studio School, and the western part of Midford Road be included in Odd Down ward. We also propose that Bloomfield be included in Moorlands ward. We also propose that the Innox Road area should lie in Twerton ward and that the Roundhill park area, Cotswold View and the whole of The Hollow should lie in Southdown ward.

Additionally, we propose that the whole of Englishcombe Lane which lies to the east of Kingsway and fields to the south of Englishcombe Lane should be included in Moorlands ward whilst that part of Englishcombe Lane to the west of Kingsway should lie in Southdown ward.

A summary of the wards we propose in is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward Name</th>
<th>No. of Councillors</th>
<th>Electorate 2017</th>
<th>Variance 2017</th>
<th>Electorate 2023</th>
<th>Variance 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bathwick</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4804</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combe Down</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4455</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>5084</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsmead</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4341</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>4551</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambridge</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4330</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>4340</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansdown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3888</td>
<td>-14%</td>
<td>4304</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moorlands</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2569</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2529</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newbridge</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4510</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4576</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odd Down</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5078</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5072</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldfield Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2279</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2314</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southdown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5055</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4992</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twerton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4617</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4547</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walcot</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4568</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4519</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3583</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>4727</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4509</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4524</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widcombe &amp; Lyncombe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4942</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4868</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the Commission supports these revised wards, the proposed pattern is markedly different from that proposed in our draft recommendations. Accordingly, the Commission has decided there should be a period of further limited consultation to seek the views of residents and local groups as to whether we should adopt the alternative warding pattern in the city instead of the draft recommendations.

Our further draft recommendations can be seen on the Commission’s website at [http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/somerset/bath-and-north-east-somerset](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/somerset/bath-and-north-east-somerset)
This period of further limited consultation commences today, 15 May 2018, and closes on 11 June 2018. During this period, the Commission welcomes comments and supporting evidence on its further draft recommendations for Bath city. This timescale is necessary in order to ensure that the review can be completed in time to prepare for elections on new ward boundaries in May 2019.

The Commission’s final recommendations for the district will now be published on 7 August 2018.

The Commission would like to hear whether people support its proposed changes and the reasons for their views. We therefore encourage those who have a view on the further draft proposals to write to us, whether they agree with them or not.

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 (Bath & North East Somerset)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Any respondents who submit comments during this period of the review, and do not want any part of the response or name made public, must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary, but all information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000). Following the conclusion of this further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations for Bath & North East Somerset.

If you have any queries, please contact reviews@lgbce.org.uk or 0330 500 1525.

Yours sincerely,

Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
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0330 500 1525