

David Buckland  
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23 February 2021

Dear Mr Buckland

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

I am writing to let you know that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has today launched a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members, and ensure that your officers also use your regular communications channels to bring the consultation to the attention of residents and community groups. Colleagues have provided your officers with publicity materials to help with this.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 41 councillors should be elected to the council in future. This is five more than the current arrangements. We are now inviting proposals from the council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of electoral wards based on that number of councillors.

A public consultation inviting proposals will run from 23 February to 03 May 2021.

In drawing up a pattern of electoral wards, we must balance the three statutory criteria we are required to follow:

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances

We will test proposals made to us against the criteria before drawing up our own proposals.

This means that proposals made to us demonstrate how they meet the criteria. We will take decisions based on the strength of the argument and not merely on assertion. For example, giving details of community interests such as the location and use made of local facilities, services and local organisations to support a proposal will carry greater weight than a proposal that simply asserts that an area has a community identity.

The Commission has no power to create new parishes or alter the external boundaries of existing parishes. However, sometimes we may alter the parish wards

used for parish (or town council) elections. This happens when we create new district or borough wards, or county divisions, for the authority we are reviewing which divide existing parishes. In that case, the law says we must change parish or town council wards so that they do not cross the new boundaries. When we do this, we may change the number of parish councillors each parish ward will have, but we would not normally change the total number of parish or town councillors.

We consider all proposals on their merits. A well-evidenced proposal from an individual which addresses the three statutory criteria will be more persuasive than one which does not, even if the latter is from an elected individual or body.

Our consultation site at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/24993> contains links to useful guidance and maps of the current wards. Views can be submitted through the site or:

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

by post      Review Officer (Stratford-on-Avon)  
LGBCE  
PO Box 133  
Blyth  
NE24 9FE

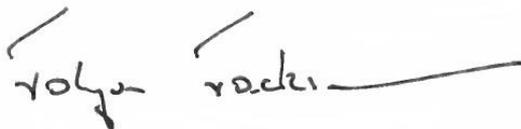
We will carefully consider all views received during this phase of consultation, and plan to publish proposals for new electoral arrangements in August 2021.

Public consultation on our proposals is scheduled to take place between August and October 2021.

We will again take time to carefully consider views made to us during that consultation and intend to publish final recommendations in January 2022.

New electoral arrangements for the district are scheduled to come into effect at the district council elections in 2023.

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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