

Mr Tim Johnson
Chief Executive

tim.johnson@wolverhampton.gov.uk

19 January 2021

Dear Mr Johnson

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WOLVERHAMPTON CITY 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 Wolverhampton.

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members. I would also appreciate if you could ensure that your officers 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 60 councillors should be elected to the council in future. 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.

This public consultation will run from 19 January 2021 to 29 March 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 must 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.

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

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/24695> 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

by post The Review Officer for Wolverhampton
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

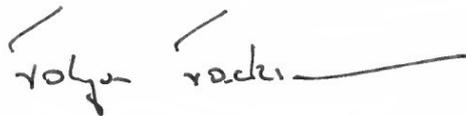
We will carefully consider all views received during this phase of consultation, and plan to publish proposals for new electoral arrangements in June 2021.

Public consultation on our proposals is scheduled to take place between June 2021 and September 2021.

We will again take time to carefully consider views made to us during that consultation and intend to publish final recommendations in November 2021.

New electoral arrangements for the city are scheduled to come into effect at the city council elections in 2022.

Yours sincerely



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