Council size
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea currently has a council size of 54 councillors.
After considering the evidence presented to it by the council and others during consultation, the Commission was minded to recommend that 51 councillors should be elected to the council in future.
In the development of draft recommendations, the Commission found that a total of 50 councillors would allow for a warding pattern that used strong boundaries and reflected local community identities to a greater extent than under a council size of 51.
We believe that a council size of 50 councillors would not adversely affect the council's governance arrangements. As part of its draft recommendations, the Commission therefore proposes that Kensington & Chelsea should have 50 councillors.

Electoral arrangements
Our draft recommendations propose that Kensington & Chelsea's 50 councillors should represent 14 three-member wards and four two-member wards across the borough.
The Commission believes its draft recommendations meet its obligations - which are set out in law - to:
- Deliver electoral equality for voters.
- Reflect local community interests and identities.
- Promote effective and convenient local government.
The Commission welcomes proposals for alternative boundaries that better reflect the three criteria above.

Who we are:
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas.

Electoral reviews:
The purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards – for a local authority.

Why Kensington & Chelsea?
We are conducting an electoral review of Kensington & Chelsea to deliver improved levels of electoral equality so that each councillor represents a similar number of voters.

Summary

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To view the proposals in detail, visit: consultation.lgbce.org.uk
You can view the full report and maps at: www.lgbce.org.uk
General analysis
The Commission’s draft recommendations are broadly based on a combination of the four borough-wide warding schemes submitted to it during consultation.

All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

North Kensington
In the Ladbroke Grove area, we propose a three-member Golborne ward as presented to us by the Labour group, Liberal Democrat group, the Golborne Forum and a local resident.

To the west of Golborne, the Commission agreed that while the Westway does not necessarily present a physical barrier in the community, it nonetheless provides a clear and defining boundary. As such, we propose to adopt the only borough-wide scheme (proposed by the Labour group) which uses the Westway as a boundary. We therefore propose a two-member Dalgarno ward next to a two-member St Helen’s ward. However, the Commission proposes to alter the Labour group’s proposal so that St Helen’s ward is called St Charles as a better reflection of local community identity.

In the Notting Hill area, the Commission considers Ladbroke Grove and Notting Hill Gate represent strong local boundaries. As such, we propose to adopt the local resident and Labour group’s proposal for a three-member Colville and two-member Pembridge ward bounded by Notting Hill Gate, Ladbroke Grove and the Westway/Hammersmith & City/Circle underground lines.

To the west of Ladbroke Grove, the Commission again sought to use the boundaries of the Westway, Ladbroke Grove and Holland Park Avenue. As such, we propose to adopt the Labour group’s proposal for a three-member Notting Dale and two-member Norland ward as our draft recommendations in this area with a minor modification to the boundary between them.

Central and South Kensington
In the central and southern parts of the borough, the Commission proposes to adopt the Conservative group’s proposals as the best reflection of the statutory criteria for electoral reviews.

For Holland Park and South Kensington, our draft recommendations are for three-member Holland and Campden wards with Holland Walk forming the boundary between them.

To the south, we propose a three-member Abingdon ward in a warding pattern that will deliver good levels of electoral equality in the future.

The Commission has opted to propose three-member Earl’s Court and Redcliffe wards as part of its draft recommendations.

The Conservative group proposed the ward name Old Brompton to the east of Earl’s Court rather than the existing ward name of Courtfield. While their proposed Old Brompton ward is not identical to the existing Courtfield ward, it nonetheless comprises much of the same area. We are therefore minded to adopt the ward name of Courtfield as part of our draft recommendations.

The Commission considered whether the museums and streets north of Cromwell Gardens should form part of its proposed three-member Hans Town ward or three-member Queen’s Gate ward. As part of these draft recommendations, we include that area in Queen’s Gate ward but would particularly welcome views on that proposal.

Chelsea
During consultation, the Chelsea Society proposed that the warding pattern in this part of the borough should respect the boundaries of the former Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea. The Commission’s draft recommendations broadly follow those boundaries.

We propose to adopt the Conservative group’s three-member Chelsea Riverside ward and a three-member Royal Hospital ward.

Elsewhere in the Chelsea area, we noted the views of the Sydney Street & District Residents’ Association. Although we were unable to adopt their proposed boundaries as part of our scheme, we have included the area covered by that organisation as part of our proposed three-member Stanley ward without dividing the area between wards.

What happens next?
There will now be a twelve-week consultation period on the draft recommendations. We will take into account all submissions received by 10 June 2013.

Please remember that if you are submitting an alternative pattern of wards to us, you should consider whether your proposal satisfies the three criteria the Commission must use and which are listed on the first page of this summary.

View maps and have your say at: consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Write: Review Officer (RBKC) LGBCE Layden House 76–86 Turnmill Street London EC1M 5LG