

Mr Ian Miller
Chief Executive
Wyre Forest District Council
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY11 7WF

24 September 2013

Dear Mr Miller,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYRE FOREST

Following my letter of 25 June 2013, I am writing to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review of Wyre Forest District Council.

Following a public consultation on council size, the Commission considered representations for a council size of 33 members at its meeting on 10 September 2013. No substantial arguments were received in opposition to the proposal for 33 members during the public consultation. The Commission has therefore adopted a council size of 33 for Wyre Forest District Council for the purpose of the next stage of the review – consultation on warding arrangements.

Review timetable

This stage of the review begins today with a general invitation to all interested parties to propose a new pattern of ward arrangements for Wyre Forest. Proposals should be based on a council size of 33 councillors. This stage of the review will run from **24 September 2013** to **10 December 2013**.

A copy of the Commission's press release and posters advertising the start of this stage of the review are being sent to your Council. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the start of the review by placing copies on display at local information points, and by taking such other steps as you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties. Once the Commission has considered all the proposals received, it will take a provisional decision on warding arrangements. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in March 2014.

The draft recommendations will be available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk, and will be sent to; your Council, to those organisations

and individuals listed at the end of this letter, and to all those who submit proposals during this stage. There will be a ten-week period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Commission considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations. The final recommendations are expected to be published in the summer of 2014.

A detailed technical guidance document, *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications/guidance. This document contains all the statutory information about the review process and information regarding warding patterns.

Understanding Wyre Forest's communities

The Commission aims to recommend a pattern of wards that achieves good electoral equality, reflects community identities and interests and provides for effective and convenient local government. It will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

To further these aims, the Commission needs a good understanding of community identity in Wyre Forest. In particular, it is interested in developing an understanding as to which areas communities identify with and how and why they do so. We would welcome all local information which enhances this understanding.

Creating a warding pattern

All proposals for warding patterns should demonstrate how any pattern of wards aids the provision of effective and convenient local government and why any deterioration in equality of representation or community identity should be accepted. Representations that are supported by evidence and argument will carry more weight with the Commission than those which merely assert a point of view.

The Commission will make recommendations on the number of councillors, the number and boundaries of wards, and the names of wards. It can also recommend changes to the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils i.e. the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of parish councillors for each parish ward. However, this is only in circumstances where the parished area is to be divided between wards. The Commission cannot, as part of this review, consider changes to the external boundaries of a parish, or create new parishes. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, changes to external parish boundaries are the responsibility of local authorities.

An interactive map of existing wards in Wyre Forest, electoral figures and guidance on how to propose a pattern of wards are available in the consultation area <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

Please feel free to contact us at any time (details below) should you have any questions. Officers at the Commission will be happy to assist with technical aspects of your warding scheme if you require, either in person or via email or telephone. This is an open offer, which can be utilised at any point during the information-gathering period.

Correspondence and enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

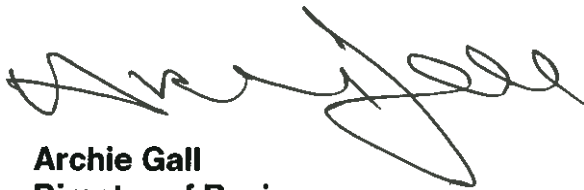
Review Officer (Wyre Forest)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Tummill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

or direct to your main contacts at the Commission who will be:

- David Owen, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review
email: david.owen@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 020 7644 8532;
- Alison Evison, Review and Programme Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: alison.evison@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 020 7644 8537.

I am copying this letter to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely



Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
archie.gall@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8509

- cc Worcestershire County Council
 MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Wyre Forest
 Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia
 Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group
 Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
 Parish councils, town councils and other local organisations in Wyre Forest

