Mr Derek Myers  
Chief Executive  
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
The Town Hall  
Horton Street  
London, W8 7NX  

25 September 2012  

Dear Mr Myers,  

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KENSINGTON & CHELSEA  

Following my letter of 26 June 2012, I am writing to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review of Kensington & Chelsea Council. 

Following a public consultation on council size, the Commission considered representations for a council size of 51 members at its meeting on 11 September 2012. The Commission noted the range of views offered on the most appropriate council size for Kensington & Chelsea. Having considered the evidence received, the Commission is satisfied that the original submission from the Council demonstrated consideration for effective governance and the representational responsibilities that the Council must undertake. The Commission has therefore adopted a council size of 51 for Kensington & Chelsea Council for the purpose of the next stage of the review – information gathering on warding arrangements. 

Review timetable  

This stage of the review begins today with a period of information gathering to develop a new pattern of ward arrangements for Kensington & Chelsea. Proposals for warding arrangements should be based on a council size of 51 councillors. This information gathering stage will run from 25 September 2012 to 3 December 2012. 

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 information received, it will take a provisional decision on warding arrangements. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in March 2013.

The draft recommendations will be available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk, be sent to your Council, to those organisations and individuals listed at the end of this letter, and to all those who submit information as representations during this stage. There will be a twelve 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 September 2013.

A detailed technical guidance document, *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at www.lgbce.org.uk. This document contains all the statutory information about the review process and information regarding the warding patterns. Hard copies are also being sent to your council.

**Understanding Kensington & Chelsea’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. The Commission will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

To further these aims, the Commission needs a good understanding of community identity in Kensington & Chelsea. In particular, it is interested in developing an understanding as to which areas communities identify with and how and why, and would welcome all local information which enhances this understanding. For example –

- Economic/demographic data and mapping
- Community usage mapping
- Local place surveys
- Partner/stakeholder details
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.

An interactive map of existing wards in Kensington & Chelsea, electoral figures and guidance on how to propose a pattern of wards are available in our consultation area 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 (Kensington & Chelsea)
    Local Government Boundary Commission for England
    Layden House
    76-86 Turnmill Street
    London
    EC1M 5LG

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

- Arion Lawrence, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
  email: arion.lawrence@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8513;

- Richard Buck, Review and Programme Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews.
  email: richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7644 8511.
I am writing in similar terms to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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

cc  MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Kensington & Chelsea
    Headquarters of the main political parties
    Metropolitan Police Service
    London Fire Brigade
    NHS London