

Mr John Wood
Chief Executive
Hertfordshire County Council
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DQ

17 February 2015

Dear Mr Wood,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HERTFORDSHIRE: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION

Following consultation on draft recommendations for Hertfordshire County Council, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision to undertake a further period of limited consultation prior to publication of its final recommendations.

The Commission received a submission from Stevenage Labour Party providing alternative division arrangements to its draft recommendations. The Commission is seeking views from interested parties on whether this alternative proposal would better reflect community identities and provide for more effective and convenient local government than the Commission's draft recommendations.

Two maps are attached to this letter: Map A shows the divisions proposed by Stevenage Constituency Labour Party and Hertfordshire County Labour Party, with one amendment made to the boundary between its proposed Broadwater and Old Stevenage divisions to improve electoral equality. We propose to adopt the recommendations contained in Map A as our further draft recommendations. Map B shows the Commission's draft recommendations for divisions in Stevenage which we originally published in September 2014.

The Commission is now holding a period of limited consultation on the proposals set out in Map A and Table A below. This period of further limited consultation commences today, **17 February 2015**, and closes on **31 March 2015**. During this period the Commission welcomes comments on its proposed final recommendations for divisions in Stevenage.

In the rest of the county, the Commission is satisfied that it has received sufficient evidence to publish final recommendations following the conclusion of this period of limited further consultation in Stevenage.

Background

During consultation on its draft recommendations, the Commission received two new division patterns for Stevenage: one from Stevenage Liberal Democrats and one from Stevenage Constituency Labour Party and Hertfordshire County Labour Party. The Commission was of the view that both proposals provided for clear and identifiable boundaries. However, it was of the view that the Labour Party's proposal provided a better balance between the statutory criteria in that it ensured clearly identifiable divisions that would both reflect community identities and provide reasonable electoral equality.

Given that the proposed pattern of divisions has not been consulted on previously, the Commission has decided to conduct this period of further limited consultation to seek the views of local residents and organisations as to whether it should confirm its draft recommendations as final or adopt the alternative division pattern for Stevenage.

Electorate information for the area subject to further consultation can be found at the end of this letter. The Commission's final recommendations for the whole county, including those areas subject to further limited consultation, will now be published later in the spring.

Further Consultation

The Commission is now undertaking a further period of limited consultation on the electoral divisions in Stevenage. The Commission would like to hear whether you support its proposed changes and the reasons for your views.

Representations must be submitted to the Commission by **31 March 2015**. The Commission has not finalised its recommendations and, in light of further evidence, may make further revisions to its proposals in Stevenage. We therefore encourage those who have a view on the proposals to write to us, whether they agree with them or not. All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account and the Commission will then consider whether or not to further amend its proposals prior to the publication of its final recommendations.

Representations should be made in writing to reviews@lgbce.org.uk or:

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

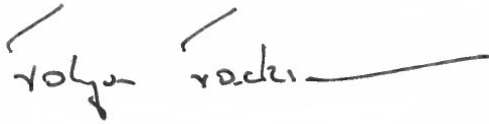
Further information on the review can be found on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk

Any respondents who submit comments during this period of the review, and do not want all or any part of their response or name made public, must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary, but all information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

Following the conclusion of this further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations for division arrangements in Hertfordshire.

If you have any queries, please contact William Morrison on 020 7664 8516, or Reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

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
Reviews@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8534

ELECTORATE INFORMATION – divisions subject to further consultation

Table A: LGBCE Further draft recommendations

| Division name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2013) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2020) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bedwell | 1 | 11,026 | 11,026 | 0% | 11,191 | 11,191 | -6% |
| Broadwater | 1 | 10,982 | 10,982 | 0% | 11,088 | 11,088 | -7% |
| Chells | 1 | 10,668 | 10,668 | -3% | 10,718 | 10,718 | -10% |
| Old Stevenage | 1 | 10,748 | 10,748 | -3% | 10,813 | 10,813 | -9% |
| Shephall | 1 | 10,774 | 10,774 | -2% | 10,891 | 10,891 | -9% |
| St Nicholas | 1 | 11,004 | 11,004 | 0% | 11,208 | 11,208 | -6% |

Table B: LGBCE Draft Recommendations (published Sept 2014)

| Division name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2013) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2020) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chells | 1 | 11,157 | 11,157 | 2% | 11,371 | 11,371 | -3% |
| Old Town | 1 | 10,712 | 10,712 | -2% | 10773 | 10,773 | -8% |
| Pin Green | 1 | 11,085 | 11,085 | 2% | 11229 | 11,229 | -5% |
| Shephall | 1 | 10,701 | 10,701 | -2% | 10,738 | 10,738 | -9% |
| Stevenage South | 1 | 10,510 | 10,510 | -4% | 10,691 | 10,691 | -9% |
| Stevenage West | 1 | 11,070 | 11,070 | 2% | 11,111 | 11,111 | -6% |