

Mr Chris Bull  
Chief Executive  
Herefordshire Council  
Brockington  
35 Hafod Road  
Hereford  
Herefordshire  
HR1 1SH

20 June 2012

Dear Mr Bull

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HEREFORDSHIRE**

Following my letter of 27 March 2012, I am writing to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review of Herefordshire Council. Herefordshire is being reviewed in order to improve the levels of electoral representation in the council, which have become imbalanced since the last review. Currently, the number of electors represented by the councillors in 30% of wards varies by more than 10% from the average for the council and the councillor in Hollington represents 34% fewer electors than the council average.

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.

A detailed technical guidance document, *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://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.

### **Review timetable**

This stage of the review begins today with a period of information gathering to develop a new pattern of warding arrangements for Herefordshire. Subsequent to preliminary discussions with your Council, the Commission is

currently minded to recommend a council size of 54 councillors. Proposals for warding arrangements should therefore be based on this council size. We expect this information gathering stage to run from 20 June 2012 to 28 August 2012. Once we have considered all the information we receive, we will take a provisional decision on warding arrangements and communicate this with you. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in November 2012

The draft recommendations will also be available on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://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 further eight week period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Commission considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations. We expect to publish the final recommendations in March 2013.

### **Understanding Herefordshire'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. We will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

To further these aims, the Commission needs a good understanding of community identity in Herefordshire. We particularly want to develop our understanding as to which areas communities identify with and how and why. We are interested in all local information which enhances this understanding. For example –

- Economic/demographic data and mapping
- Community village 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.

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 (Herefordshire)  
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:

- Arion Lawrence, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.  
email: arion.lawrence@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7644 8513;
- Tim Bowden, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews  
email: tim.bowden@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7644 8514.

I am writing in similar terms to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Gall', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc   MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Herefordshire.  
      Headquarters of the main political parties  
      West Mercia Police Authority  
      NHS Worcestershire  
      Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
      Herefordshire Association of Local Councils  
      Parish councils, town councils and other local organisations in  
      Herefordshire.