

Mr Kevin Dicks
Chief Executive
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire, B60 1AA

27 March 2012

Dear Mr Dicks,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BROMSGROVE

Following my letter of 2 June 2011, I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Bromsgrove District Council. Bromsgrove is being reviewed as a result of a request from your council.

A copy of the Commission's press release, and posters advertising the start 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.

Consultation on council size

During the preliminary stage of the review, the Commission received three submissions advocating three different council sizes. The majority Conservative Group proposed a reduction in council size of eight members to 31. The Labour Group proposed an increase of three or four councillors to either 43 or 44. Wythall Residents' Group proposed a reduction of three councillors to 36.

The Commission considered all the proposals for council size, copies of which can be found on the Commission's website at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/bromsgrove-fer, at its meeting on 13 March 2012. The Commission was of a view that the evidence provided supports the case that the number of councillors can be reduced, and is therefore consulting on a council size of 31 members. In reaching its conclusions, the Commission carefully considered the various arguments made in regard to the representational role of councillors, the governance and scrutiny arrangements, and the delegation of functions within Bromsgrove Council.

The Commission now seeks views on its proposal for a council size of 31 members for Bromsgrove District Council during this period of public consultation.

Review timetable

This stage of the review starts today, 27 March 2012. The closing date for submissions on council size is **8 May 2012**. Once the Commission has considered all the representations received, it will take a provisional decision on council size. It is intended that these conclusions will be publicised in June 2012 on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk, and be sent to your Council, to those organisations and individuals listed at the end of this letter, and to all those who submit representations during this stage. The Commission will then begin a public consultation on the ward boundaries which we expect to run from 20 June 2012 to 28 August 2012.

After this consultation on ward boundaries the Commission will formulate draft recommendations, which are expected to be published in November 2012. An eight-week period of public consultation will follow the publication of the draft recommendations, during which time your views on what is being proposed would be very much welcomed. Following this consultation period, the Commission will formulate the final recommendations, which are expected to be published in Spring 2013.

Correspondence and Enquiries

Your Council's main contacts at the Commission will be:

- William Morrison, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review
email: william.morrison@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 020 7664 8516
- Tim Bowden, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: tim.bowden@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 020 7664 8514

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

Yours sincerely



Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
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020 7664 8509

cc

MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Bromsgrove
Headquarters of the main political parties
West Mercia Police Authority
Hereford and Worcester Fire Service
NHS West Midlands
Worcestershire County Council
Local organisations in Bromsgrove