

Dr Steven Halls  
Chief Executive  
Three Rivers District Council  
Three Rivers House  
Northway  
Rickmansworth  
Hertfordshire  
WD3 1RL

23 October 2012

Dear Dr Halls,

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THREE RIVERS**

Following my letter of 24 July 2012, I am writing to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review of Three Rivers District Council.

Following a public consultation on council size, the Commission considered representations for a council size of 39 members at its meeting on 10 October 2012. The Commission considered that the arguments received during public consultation supporting a council size of 39 outweighed those supporting alternative council sizes. The Commission has therefore adopted a council size of 39 for Three Rivers 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 Three Rivers. Proposals should be based on a council size of 39 councillors. This stage of the review will run from 23 October 2012 to 14 January 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 April 2013.

The draft recommendations will 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 proposals 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 October 2013.

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

### **Understanding Three Rivers' communities**

The Commission aims to recommend a pattern of wards/electoral divisions 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 Three Rivers. 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 village usage mapping
- Local place surveys
- Partner/stakeholder details

### **Creating a warding/division pattern**

All proposals for warding/division patterns should demonstrate how any pattern of wards/electoral divisions 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/electoral divisions in Three Rivers, electoral figures and guidance on how to propose a pattern of wards/electoral division are available in the consultation area [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](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/division 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 (Three Rivers)  
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:

- Nicholas Dunkeyson, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review  
email: [nicholas.dunkeyson@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:nicholas.dunkeyson@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 020 7664 8528;
- Jessica Metherringham, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews  
email: [jessica.metherringham@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:jessica.metherringham@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 020 7664 8525.

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   MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Three Rivers  
      Headquarters of the main political parties  
      Hertfordshire Constabulary  
      NHS Hertfordshire  
      East of England Strategic Health Authority  
      Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service  
      Parish councils, town councils and other local organisations in Three Rivers