

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Mrs Gillian Beasley
Chief Executive
Peterborough City Council
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
PE1 1HG

14 January 2014

Dear Mrs Beasley,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF PETERBOROUGH

Following my letter of 24 September 2013, I am writing to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review of Peterborough City Council.

Following a public consultation on council size, the Commission considered representations for a council size of 60 members at its meeting on 10 December 2013. No substantial arguments were received in opposition to the proposal for 60 members during the public consultation. The Commission has therefore adopted a council size of 60 for Peterborough City 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 Peterborough. Proposals should be based on a council size of 60 councillors. This stage of the review will run from **14 January 2014 to 1 April 2014**.

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 July 2014.

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 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 January 2015.

A detailed technical guidance document, *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications/guidance. This document contains all the statutory information about the review process and information regarding the development of warding patterns.

Understanding Peterborough'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. It will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

To further these aims, the Commission needs a good understanding of community identity in Peterborough. 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.

Electoral pattern

Peterborough City Council is currently elected by thirds that is to say elections are held for 19 councillors each year for three successive years out of four. Where a council elects by thirds, Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that the Commission should have regard to the desirability of recommending that each ward returns three councillors, subject to its other statutory criteria of achieving electoral equality, reflecting community identity and providing for effective and convenient local government. This reflects Parliament's view that each elector in a local authority should have the same opportunity to vote in local elections, irrespective of that authority's cycle of elections.

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.

The Commission will make recommendations on the number of councillors, the number and boundaries of wards, and the names of wards. The Commission 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 in Peterborough, electoral figures and guidance on how to propose a pattern of wards are available in the consultation area <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 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 this stage of the review.

Correspondence and enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:


Review Officer (Peterborough)
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:

- William Morrison, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review
email: william.morrison@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 020 7644 8516;
- 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 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 Peterborough
 Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire
 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
 Parish councils, town councils and other local organisations in
 Peterborough