

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

24 July 2012

Dear Dr Halls

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

Following my letter of 20 May 2011, I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Three Rivers District Council. Three Rivers is being reviewed following a formal request from your Council in order to consider a reduction in council size.

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 a formal council submission advocating a council size of 39, a reduction of nine from the current council size, in addition to submissions from other groups on the council for 30 and 42 members. It was noted that no one proposal had strong cross-party support.

The Commission considered the proposals for council size, which can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/hertfordshire>, at its meeting on 10 July 2012. The Commission was of the view that the evidence provided by the Council supports the case that the number of councillors can be reduced to 39, and that reduction would be sustainable. In particular, the Commission noted that 39 members would be

sufficient to allow the Council to effectively manage committee work and allow individual councillors to perform their representative role. However, the Commission also noted that the proposal for 30 councillors made by an opposition group provided a well-evidenced rationale in terms of committee structure and council governance, and would welcome further evidence on the implication of this council size on community representation. The Commission agreed to consult on a council size of 39 for Three Rivers District Council.

The Commission now seeks views on its proposal for a council size of 39 members for Three Rivers District Council during this period of public consultation.

### **Review timetable**

The first stage of the review starts today, 24 July 2012. The Commission will initially consult on the appropriate number of councillors for Three Rivers – we refer to this as council size. The closing date for submissions on council size is **3 September 2012**. Once we have considered all the representations we receive, we will take a provisional decision on council size. It is intended that these conclusions will be publicised in 23 October 2012 on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://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. We will then begin a public consultation on the ward boundaries which we expect to run from 23 October 2012 to 14 January 2013.

After this date the Commission will formulate our draft recommendations, which we expect to publish in April 2013. A twelve-week period of public consultation will follow this, during which time we would very much welcome your views on what is being proposed. Following this consultation period, the Commission will formulate the final recommendations; we expect to publish these in autumn 2013.

### **Correspondence and Enquiries**

Your Council's main contacts at the Commission 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-Owlett, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews  
email: [jessica.metherringham-owlett@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:jessica.metherringham-owlett@lgbce.org.uk); Tel: 020 7664 8525.

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

Yours sincerely



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

cc Hertfordshire County Council  
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Three Rivers  
Headquarters of the main political parties  
Hertfordshire Constabulary  
Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service  
NHS Hertfordshire  
East of England Strategic Health Authority  
Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils  
Parish and town councils in Three Rivers

