

Mr Paul Lankester
Chief Executive
Stratford-upon-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6HX

26 February 2013

Dear Mr Lankester,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Following my letter of 24 September 2012, I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Stratford-on-Avon is being reviewed following a request from the District Council. In addition, currently, the number of electors represented by the councillors in nine of the 31 wards (29%) varies by more than 10% from the average for the district.

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.

Review timetable

The first stage of the review starts today, 26 February 2013. The Commission will initially consult on the appropriate number of councillors for Stratford-on-Avon – we refer to this as council size. The closing date for submissions on council size is **8 April 2013**. 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 May 2013 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. We will then begin a public consultation on the ward boundaries which we expect to run from 28 May 2013 to 5 August 2013.

After this date the Commission will formulate our draft recommendations, which we expect to publish in October 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 early 2014.

Please note that in the interests of transparency, copies of all representations we receive during this review will be placed on the Commission's website, at www.lgbce.org.uk

An interactive map of existing wards in Stratford-on-Avon, electoral figures and guidance on how to have your say on council size is available in the consultation area

consultation.lgbce.org.uk. Technical guidance can be found on the *Policy and publications* page of our website.

Parish electoral arrangements

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.

Correspondence and Enquiries

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

- Daniel Knag, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
Email: daniel.knag@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8521;
- Jessica Metheringham, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
Email: jessica.metheringham@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 Warwick County Council
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Stratford-on-Avon
Headquarters of the main political parties
Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue
NHS Coventry
Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils
Parish and town councils in Stratford-on-Avon