

Mr Adrian Pritchard
Colchester Borough Council,
Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO3 3WG

4 March 2014

Dear Mr Pritchard,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF COLCHESTER

I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Colchester Borough Council. Colchester is being reviewed following a request from the Borough 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.

Review timetable

The first stage of the review starts today, 4 March 2014. The Commission will initially consult on 51 councillors for Colchester – we refer to this as council size. The closing date for submissions on council size is **14 April 2014**. 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 2014 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 warding arrangements which we expect to run from 27 May 2014 to 4 August 2014.

Once the LGBCE has considered the representations, it will publish a report which will set out in detail a pattern of wards which the Commission will invite views on. We expect to publish this in October. 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 from your Council and all interested parties. Following this consultation period, the Commission will formulate the final recommendations; we expect to publish these in spring 2015.

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.

Guidance on how to have your say on council size is available in the consultation area <http://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:

- Nicholas Dunkeyson, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
email: nicholas.dunkeyson@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8528;
- Richard Buck, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8511.

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 Essex County Council
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Colchester
Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Essex Fire and Rescue Service
NHS North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
Essex Association of Local Councils
Parish and town councils in Colchester
Local Organisations in Colchester