

Mr David Kennedy
Chief Executive
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

27 October 2009

Dear Mr Kennedy,

Electoral review of Northampton

Following my letter of 14 September 2009, I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Northampton.

The procedures which the Committee will be following in conducting the review are set out in its guidance, *Electoral reviews: what they are and how you can get involved*, copies of which have already been sent to your Council. I would ask you to make copies of the guidance available for inspection at your main offices. Further copies of the guidance are available on request.

A more detailed technical guidance document *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* is available on our website, at (http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/48546/Tech-Guidance-final_28191-20728__E__.pdf). This document contains all the statutory information about the review process. Please note that this document is not available in hard copy.

Your Council and other interested parties are invited to submit representations on council size and warding arrangements for the district council no later than **18 January 2010**.

The Boundary Committee
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW

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info@boundarycommittee.org.uk
www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

Advertising the review

A copy of the Committee's press release is enclosed and posters about the review have also been sent to your Council. We will also be sending posters to parish and town councils and the MPs with constituency interests in the district. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the start of consultation by placing copies of the poster on display, and by taking such other steps you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties. We have also sent a number of posters to the County Council for display in libraries in your Council's area.

Review timetable

During this consultation period, the Committee is inviting representations on the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council as well as the warding arrangements, before preparing draft recommendations. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in the Spring of 2010. The draft recommendations will be made available on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk, with hard copies of the report and CD-ROMs available on request. There will be a further period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Committee considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations. We expect to publish the final recommendations in late 2010.

The Boundary Committee takes the consultation periods in the review very seriously; because the Committee may move away from its draft recommendations as a result of consultation, it is particularly important that everyone is encouraged to express their views on the draft recommendations, whether or not they agree with what has been proposed.

The Boundary Committee makes available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, representations will be made available on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk. A copy of all representations will also be placed on deposit at the Committee's London office, and the Electoral Commission's Midlands office in Coventry. We will also supply your council with copies of all representations. Please make these available for public inspection together with any representations your council might make.

Creating a warding pattern

The Committee 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. We will also seek to use strong, easily-identifiable boundaries.

Proposals 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 Committee than those which merely assert a point of view.

Correspondence and enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

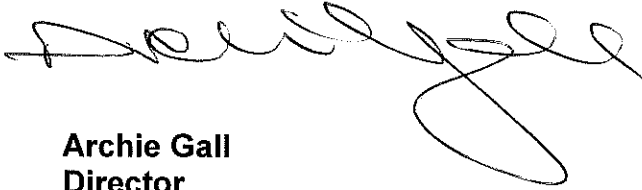
The Review Officer (Northampton)
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

or direct to your main contacts at the Committee who will be:

- Arion Lawrence, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
email: alawrence@boundarycommittee.org.uk; Tel: 020 7271 0674;
- Richard Buck, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: rbuck@boundarycommittee.org.uk; Tel: 020 7271 0695.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Gall', with a large loop at the end.

Archie Gall
Director

agall@electoralcommission.org.uk
020 7271 0650

cc Northamptonshire County Council
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Northampton
Headquarters of the main political parties
Northamptonshire Constabulary
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
NHS Northamptonshire
NHS East Midlands
Parish and town councils in Northampton