Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements are:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's voters ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors representing each ward or division.

Why Kensington and Chelsea?

We are conducting an electoral review of Kensington and Chelsea to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Kensington and Chelsea currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more - or many fewer - voters than others. This means that the value of your vote - in council elections - varies depending on where you live in the Royal Borough.

Our proposals

Kensington and Chelsea currently has 54 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, the Commission recommends that 50 councillors serve the borough in future.

Electoral arrangements

Our final recommendations propose that Kensington and Chelsea's 50 councillors should represent four two-member and 14 three-member wards across the borough.

The Commission believes the final recommendations meet our statutory criteria to:

- Deliver electoral equality for voters.
- Reflect local community interests and identities.
- Promote effective and convenient local government.

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What happens next?

We have now completed our review of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. If approved, the legal document which brings into force our recommendations - will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2014.

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Stage of review | Description
--- | ---
26 June - 6 August 2012 | Public consultation on council size
19 March - 10 June 2013 | Public consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements
24 September 2014 | Publication of final recommendations by the Commission
May 2014 | Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections
Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations proposed four two-member wards and 14 three-member wards.

During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received 98 submissions. Broadly speaking, the recommendations were supported by respondents with the exception of the Brompton area. Respondents commenting on this area largely opposed the draft recommendations, instead proposing the existing Brompton ward be retained. However, under a council size of 50, the existing Brompton ward would have 17% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018.

While we are unable to retain the existing Brompton ward as part of our final recommendations, we acknowledge the evidence of community identity provided in relation to this area.

A number of respondents commenting on this area argued that the museums and streets north of Cromwell Road shared a strong link with the area to their south. They argued that the area did not share links with the proposed Queen’s Gate ward with which it would be included under our draft recommendations. Conversely, the inclusion of this area was welcomed by the current ward councillors for Queen’s Gate ward.

Respondents also argued that Onslow Square should not be divided between the proposed Hans Town and Courtfield wards.

In light of the evidence submitted, we propose modifying our draft recommendations to reflect the proposals received. Under our final recommendations, the museums and streets north of Cromwell Road will be included within the proposed Hans Town ward. Onslow Square will also be wholly included within the proposed Courtfield ward. To reflect these changes, and proposals received from a number of respondents, we also propose renaming Hans Town ward Brompton & Hans Town.

Elsewhere in the borough, our final recommendations are broadly unchanged from the draft recommendations with some minor modifications in North Kensington.

You can read the full report on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.