Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Submission by the Liberal Democrats

Overview of Our Strategy.

This submission on the re-warding of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has a particular focus on the issues of equality of electors per Councillor and centres of communities. The Royal Borough has a particular challenge being long and thin, north/south, but crossed by six arterial routes east/west dividing it into seven segments. If the arterial routes are used as the main factor in determining the new wards, there will be problems of equality of numbers of electors and some communities will be divided. We have balanced community factors against arterial routes. Where there is a tube station or other transport factors and shops on both sides of the road are used by residents, we have tended to regard them as community centres whereas where there is no retailing or transport links they are more likely to be dividing factors.

The number of councillors is to be reduced from 54 to 51 which has made it necessary to re-think our ward patterns and we have sought to represent current communities rather than historic boundaries. Generally we have chosen to define three member wards but bearing in mind the community factor we feel that there is a particular case for three two member wards in the south of the Borough and some merit in considering some two member wards in the north-west of the Borough if the Commission feels that the communities are divided in an unacceptable manner by the three, three member wards. The Royal Borough is extremely wealthy in comparison to most other boroughs but despite that, there is a very wide variation in the character of the population in terms ethnic, economic and religious factors. We have tried, in our plans, to ensure as wider representation of these differing groups as possible.

Shopping centres give more than a clue to the nature of an area. There are no ‘Poundlands’ in Knightbridge and equally there is no branch of Gieves & Hawkes in North Kensington. Retail outlets in the north of the Borough often reflect a considerable North African community most notably Golborne Road, whilst the European influence is strongly felt in the south of the Borough.

The geographical position of state primary schools also gives a clue to the nature of local communities. State primary schools draw most of their pupils from the local community (although Church schools tend to stretch
a little wider). Independent schools usually draw from a much wider catchment. It is interesting to note that some wards will have no provision for state primary education as there is little demand.
The figures provided by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were used to provide the projections of the population for 2018. We have also referred to the document ‘A Picture of Our Community” published by the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership in 2008. This illustrates the details of wealth and deprivation as it is distributed throughout the borough. Map 9.2 is of particular interest (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 for Kensington and Chelsea Lower Super Output Areas). Map 5.1 is significant (Social housing in Kensington and Chelsea – Council and Registered Social Landlord properties 2008). There is more housing owned by Registered Social Housing Providers than the Council. The properties owned by the Council are mainly on estates whilst the properties owned by Registered Social Landlords tend to be either smaller estates or three or four properties in a terrace. Indices of deprivation are at their greatest on the Council Estates.

The Wards:

**Ward 1 (Golborne)**

**Electorate 6,844 - 3 members**

*Equality: +168 Deviation 2.51%*

*Community*

Golborne is a long establish distinct community in the borough. The market on Golborne Road provides a centre for the community and its diversity is reflected in the retail outlets. The Golborne area is the least affluent area of the Royal Borough. The whole ward is in the lowest 20% on the Index of Multiple Deprivation and one super output area is in the lowest 5%. There are many families living in this ward and they are served by Bevington, Middle Row and St.Mary’s RC Primary Schools. Golborne Children’s Centre is a centre used by local young families.

*Boundaries:*

The boundaries of this ward are clearly defined and long standing (with the exception of the canal community north of the railway line):

- North East: Borough Boundary
- South: The Westway (only one vehicle route via Portobello Road).
- West: Ladbroke Grove.

**Ward 2 (St Charles)**

**Electorate 6,373 – 3 members**
Equality -303 Deviation – 4.53%
A slightly lower figure that gives some flexibility in the event of the
development of the Sainsburys/Gas works site north of the Railway Line.
Community
St Charles is probably the only area of the Royal Borough that could be
described as suburban and has more ‘family’ houses both private and
social and this is reflected in the population. It is served by Barlby and
St.Charles RC Primary Schools. St. Charles has existed as a ward in the
Royal Borough for many years.
Boundaries:
Similar to current boundaries but includes the Sainsbury’s & Gas works
site.
North: Borough Boundary
East: Ladbroke Grove
South: North Pole Road, St. Quentin’s Avenue, St Marks Road, Oxford
Gardens
West: Borough Boundary

Ward 3 (Notting Barns)
Electorate 6,861
Equality: + 185 Deviation +2.78%
Community:
This is more diverse community. To the north of the Westway there is an
affluent private housing estate built in the first decade of the twentieth
century. To the south there is a mostly social housing much of which is
flats built in the twenties and thirties (e.g. Nottingwood House) or post
war period(e.g Lancaster West Estate). There is a high level of
deprivation in this section of the ward. It is served by Oxford Gardens
and Thomas Jones primary Schools. Ladbrove Grove and Latimer Road
stations on the Hammersmith and City Line are situated on the
boundaries of the ward.
Boundaries:
Similar to the current boundaries.
North: With St. Charles: North Pole Road........to Oxford Gardens
East: Ladbroke Grove
South: Tube Line, Bramley Road, Whitchurch St, Treadgold Street,
Bomore Road, Walmer Road, south of Nottingwood House, Clarendon
Road, Cornwall Crescent.
West: Borough Boundary
* Whilst we are proposing 3 x 3 member wards to the west of Ladbroke
Grove and the north of Holland Park Avenue (St.Charles, Notting Barns
& Norland), we would not be against a further configuration into 1 x 3
and 3x2 member wards. North of the Westway would merit just over 4 councillors, whilst the south would merit just under 5

**Ward 4 (Norland)**  
**Electorate 6,804 - 3 members**  
*Equality +128 Deviation + 1.92%

**Community:**
Norland Ward is made up of two diverse communities at present. To the south and east is a very affluent area, whilst there is considerable deprivation in the north and west. There is a sizable community of American bankers in the most affluent streets, whilst low incomes are predominant in the social housing of the Henry Dickens estate. (A recent TV programme illustrated the divide in Portland Road) The ward is served by Avondale Park, Thomas Jones, St.Clement and St. James C of E and St. Francis of Assisi RC primary schools. Holland Park station is situated in the ward on the southern border in Holland Park Avenue. There are many up-market retailing outlets on Holland Park Avenue serving the affluent end of the ward.

**Boundaries:**
North: with Notting Barns as above - Bramley Road ……… Cornwall Crescent  
East: Ladbroke Grove  
South: Holland Park Avenue  
West: Borough boundary  
* We recognise that this is a diverse ward and have kept it a 3 member ward. If the differing communities were to be separated it would be necessary to have some 2 member wards. As stated above, we would not be unhappy with this. (Equality versus community issues with the Westway getting in the way!)

**Ward 5 (Portobello)**  
**Electorate 6,798 - 3 members**  
*Equality +122 Deviation + 1.82%

**Community:**
The Portobello Street Market forms the centre of this community. The diversity of the market itself reflects the diversity in the community. The housing is mixed from affluent houses, middle income private flats to social housing. The wealthy and those on limited incomes live side by side. A house divided into 5 social housing flats can be found next door to an upmarket family house where the ‘help’ answers the door. All groups are united by their love for the market. The Tabernacle in Talbot
Road provides a unique community centre. The ward is served by Colville Primary School and Clare Gardens Children’s Centre. The northern end of the ward uses Ladbroke Grove station as its local tube stop.

**Boundaries:**
North: The Westway (only one crossing point via Portobello Road)
East: Borough Boundary and Ledbury Road
South: Chepstow Villas and Kensington Park Gardens
West: Ladbroke Grove

* This ward provides a very clear community. We suggest that the area to the south of Westbourne Grove to Chepstow Villas is included in this ward. The market starts at Chepstow Villas.

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**Ward 6 (Notting Hill Gate)**

**Electorate 6,609 - 3 members**

**Equality - 67 Deviation -1.01%**

**Community:**
As with the previous ward this ward has a very clear centre. Notting Hill Gate is a considerable retail outlet with the historic Coronet Cinema and the Gate Theatre and Cinema. The retail outlets and banks are fairly evenly divided on each side of the road and stretch into Pembridge Road to the north and Kensington Church Street in the south. Many are ‘local’ shops such as Tylers, Boots to the north and Waterstones and the Post office to the south. The area to the north has always been in Pembridge Ward and the majority of housing is private fairly affluent flats although there is a minority of large houses in single occupancy. To the south there is Hillgate Village. This was built as working class housing in the second half of nineteenth century and as a result houses smaller units than the more commodious mansion flats and houses to the south of Bedford Gardens. Notting Hill Gate tube station is served by the Central, District and Circle line would be in the centre of the ward. Fox Primary School, popular in the area, would be included in the ward to the south.

**Boundaries:**
North: Kensington Park Gardens & Chepstow Villas
East: Borough Boundary, Palace Gardens Terrace to Kensington Mall, Kensington Church Street.
South: Airlie Gardens, Bedford Gardens. (Bedford Gardens is the point where the style and size of the property changes.)
West: Ladbroke Grove and Holland Park Walk

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**Ward 7 (Holland Park)**
**Electorate 6,802 - 3 members**

*Equality: +126 Deviation +1.88%*

*Community:*
The centre of this ward is the park. Holland as a ward is long-standing. It is a generally very affluent ward having a good number of private houses in the Addison Road area and on the Phillimore Estate. There are very luxuriant houses and flats in the road known as Holland Park. To the west around Holland Road the property is more modest. There is no significant retail in this ward except on High Street Kensington.

*Boundaries:*
North: Holland Park Avenue  
East: Holland Park Walk to Airlie Gardens, then Campden Hill Road.  
South: Kensington High Street  
West: Borough Boundary.

**Ward 8 (Kensington Palace Ward)**

**Electorate 6,612 - 3 members**

*Equality: -64 Deviation 0.96%*

*Community:*
The centre for this ward is the junction of High Street Kensington and Kensington Church Street, having High Street Kensington tube station on the south side of the road. St. Mary Abbot’s Church attracts worshippers from the north and south as does St. Mary Abbot’s C of E Primary School.

High Street Kensington is major shopping centre and this part is the most busy – the home of Barkers, Boots and Marks & Spencer.  
To the east there is Kensington Palace itself and the community around the Palace is housed in splendid apartments reflecting their proximity to the Palace. To the west of Kensington Church Street there are beautiful early Victorian and Georgian Houses and mansion blocks. To the south of High Street Kensington there are large mansion flats and houses and the area around Queens Gate Terrace built in the first half of the nineteenth century again reflects the splendour of being close to Kensington Palace. This is an almost uniformly very affluent ward.

*Boundaries:*
North: Bedford Gardens, Kensington Church Street, Notting Hill Gate/Bayswater Road  
East: Borough Boundary  
South: Kelso Place, Eldon Road, Kynance Mews, Elvaston Place. (not an easy boundary to draw but it reflects the division between the High Street Kensington hinterland and that of Cromwell Road and Gloucester Road)  
West: Campden Hill Road, Wrights Lane.
Ward 9 (Abingdon)
Electorate 6,785 - 3 members
*Equality* + 109 Deviation 1.63%

**Community:**
Being on the western side of the borough this ward has more lower rise buildings and as a result a greater percentage of houses as family units than some other parts. Having said that, there is a large development of new apartments currently taking place on the western side of Warwick Road that should produce over 1,000 voters. On the northern edge retailing continues on High Street Kensington. The ward is served by St. Barnabas & St Phillips C of E Primary School and a new Academy primary school is being constructed.

**Boundaries:**
North: High Street Kensington
East: Wrights Lane, Marloes Road
South: Cromwell Road
West: Borough Boundary
*These borders are similar to the present arrangement but owing to the development in the west, the area around Lexham Gardens has been ceded to Gloucester Road.*

Ward 10 (Gloucester Road)
Electorate 6,951 - 3 members
*Equality* + 275 Deviation 4.12%

**Community:**
The centre of this ward is Gloucester Road tube station, used by residents from both sides of Cromwell Road. There is retailing around the station, to the south and a large Sainsburys super store to the north. The character of the area on both sides of the Cromwell Road is similar. The ward is made up of mainly affluent private flats – the buildings generally being a greater height than Abingdon. The number of garden squares is a particular feature – Queens Gate Gardens, Cornwall Gardens to the north and Courtfield Gardens, Harrington Gardens and Stanhope Gardens to the south. There is very little social housing and no state schools.

**Boundaries:**
North: St. Margaret’s Lane, Kelso Place, Eldon Road, Kynance Mews, Elvaston Place.
East: Queens Gate
West: Marloes Road, Courtfield Gardens, Barkston Gardens, Bramham Gardens current boundary south of Cromwell Road.

Ward 11 (Earl’s Court)
Electorate 6,509 - 3 members
Equality -167 Deviation -2.51%
Community:
For many decades Earl’s Court has had a distinctive character. It is no longer ‘Kangaroo Valley’ but retains a somewhat more ‘Bohemian’ feel compared with other parts of the borough. Earl’s Court Road with its busy tube station (Piccadilly & District lines) is at the hub. Unlike other parts, the retailing on Earl’s Court Road could not be described as up market and is mainly used by local residents. Social venues remain a feature with visitors to the area using the pubs and clubs. In the main the housing is of flats but the old Earl’s Court village to the east of Earl’s Court Road retains an almost rural atmosphere. There is a greater percentage of social housing in Earl’s Court than most wards in the Royal Borough (mostly owned by Registered Social Landlords) and indices of deprivation are higher than surrounding wards. The ward is served by St. Cuthbert’s and St Mathias C of E Primary School.

Boundaries:
(As present)
North: West Cromwell Road
East: Courtfield Gardens, Barkston Gardens, Earl’s Court Road
South: Old Brompton Road
West: Borough Boundaries
* We wonder whether the estimate of only 61 voters on the site of the Earl’s Court Exhibition Centre, about to be redeveloped, is a little low.

Ward 12 (Redcliff)
Electorate 6,590 – 3 members
Equality – 86 Deviation -1.29%
Community:
Redcliff is very much a residential area. There is a little retailing on the Old Brompton Road to the north and the Fulham Road to the south. To the west of the ward there is some social housing, whilst to the east The Boltons provides homes for the most affluent. Most of the housing is in the form of flats. Bousfield Primary School is situated in the north east of the ward and the Servite School on the Fulham Road.

Boundaries:
As present.
North: Old Brompton Road,  
East: Drayton Gardens  
South: Fulham Road  
West: Borough Boundary  

Ward 13 (Stanley)  
**Electorate 4,496 – 2 members**  
*Equality: +45 Deviation 1.02%*  
Community:  
The area between Fulham Road and Kings Road in the west of the borough forms a distinctive ward. The houses are lower rise than some parts of the borough and many remain as single units. They were built as middle class homes in the mid nineteenth century but owing to their position in West Chelsea they now provide homes for the more affluent.  
Park Walk Primary School is situated in the ward. This contrasts with the area to the south, where there is much social housing and the area to the east, which is far more mixed. We feel there are three distinct communities in this part of the borough, hence the three two member wards.  
**Boundaries:**  
North: Fulham Road  
East: Dovehouse Street  
South: Kings Road  
West: Kings Road  

Ward 14 (Brompton)  
**Electorate 6,425 -3 members**  
*Equality: -251 Deviation – 251*  
Community:  
This ward is home to South Kensington station (Piccadilly, Circle and District Lines) and the world famous museums. There is some retailing around the station and this stretches down the Old Brompton Road. There is virtually no social housing in this ward. Most of the housing comprises very affluent apartments. There are no state schools in this ward.  
**Boundaries:**  
North: Wetherby Gardens, Stanhope Gardens, Queens Gate, Borough Boundary.  
East: Brompton Road  
South: Fulham Road  
West: Bolton Gardens, Draycott Avenue
Ward 15 (Sloane & Cadogan)
Electorate 6,421 - 3 members
Equality: - 256 Deviation -3.88%
Community:
This ward would be one of the most wealthy in the country. Many of the property owners could be described as the super rich and there is a strong international dimension. In that sense it is a community with elements in common. It is served by Knightsbridge (Piccadilly Line) and Sloane Square (District & Circle Line) stations. Top of the market retailing takes place in Knightsbridge and Sloane Square. (Harrods, Harvey Nicholls, Gieves & Hawkes etc). Most of the housing is in the form of expansive private apartments but there are also some very large houses in single occupancy. There is little social housing.
Boundaries:
North: Knightsbridge
East: Borough Boundary
South: Cheltenham Terrace, Franklin Row, Turks Row
West: Draycott Avenue, Draycott Place, Anderson Street

Ward 16 (Chelsea Riverside)
Electorate 6,705 – 3 members
Equality: + 28 Deviation +0.43%
Community:
This is the area between the Kings Road and the River. Much of this area was built in the nineteenth century for the middle and working classes. Now, it is a very affluent area but as a result many of the houses, whilst certainly not small by today’s standards, are not nearly as grand as the South Kensington/Holland Park or Knightsbridge areas. In the south east of the ward is the famous Royal Hospital, home to the Chelsea Pensioners. Christ Church C of E Primary School can be found in Flood Street and Violet Melchett Children’s Centre is also in the ward. Upmarket retailing is a feature of the Kings Road.
Boundaries:
North: Kings Road, Cheltenham Terrace, Franklin Row, Turks Row.
East: Borough Boundary
South: River Thames
West: Beaufort Street

Ward 17 (Cremorne)
Electorate 4,522 – 2 members
Equality: +71 Deviation 1.59%
Community:
The area to the south of Kings Road and the west of Beaufort Street was built as a working class area dominated by the Lots Road power station. During the post war period the World’s End Estate was built by the London County Council. The area has a character quite different from the surrounding wards. The level of deprivation is much higher. In more recent times the area to the west of Ashburnham Road has seen more private ownership than in the past. The ward is served Ashburnham Primary School and Cheyne Children’s Centre. There is a new Secondary School, Chelsea Academy.

**Boundaries:**
North: Kings Road  
East: Beaufort Street  
South: River Thames  
West: Borough Boundary

**Ward 18 (St. Luke’s)**  
**Electorate 4,394 – 2 members**  
**Equality: - 57 Deviation -1.28%**  
**Community:**  
Much of this area was built up in the first half of the nineteenth century and was a mixture of middle class and working class housing. Later a considerable amount of social housing was built – the largest development was the Sutton Lewis estate very typical of pioneering social housing of the late nineteenth century. The area is mixed in terms of economic factors and this distinguishes it from the surrounding wards. The ward is served by Marlborough and The Oratory RC Primary School. Marlborough Primary School is the only community primary school in the south east of the borough and draws children mainly from the local area of this ward.

**Boundaries:**
North: Fulham Road  
East: Draycott Avenue and Anderson Street  
South: Kings Road  
West: Dovehouse Street

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This Submission is made on behalf of Kensington & Chelsea Liberal Democrats. We should be pleased to supply further information if required.  
Compiled by Councillor Tim Jones  
c/o The Town Hall,  
Hornton Street,  
Kensington, LONDON W8
Draft Proposals for RBKC Ward Boundaries from May 2014
(15 x 3 Councillors Wards and 3 x 2 Councillors Wards)

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Estimated Borough Electorate of 113,500 by 2018.
Thus, average electorate for 51 Councillors will be 113500/51 = 2226.

Data Source: Policy and Partnerships Unit, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Legend
- 2018 Estimates of electors per street block
- Major Development Sites
- Existing Ward Boundary