

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

Mr Mike Harden  
Chief Executive  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Cherryfield Drive  
Kirkby  
L32 1TX

10 February 2015

Dear Mr Harden,

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL:  
DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has opened a public consultation on its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The consultation opens today (10 February 2015) and closes on 6 April 2015.

The draft recommendations propose that 45 councillors should be elected to Knowsley Council in future. The recommendations also propose new ward boundaries across the borough.

Once the Commission has considered all the responses to the consultation, we aim to publish final recommendations in June 2015. We will then lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament under the negative resolution procedure. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at the local elections in 2016.

All information relating to the draft recommendations is available on our website. The Commission's report on its draft recommendations can also be found at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/merseyside/knowsley>. In addition, hard copies of the report and accompanying map will be dispatched to the Council shortly.

Interactive maps of the proposals are also posted on the Commission's consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/3670>. The portal also allows visitors to submit comments and alternative proposals.

## **Publicising the consultation**

The Commission will shortly dispatch hard copies of the recommendations to the council for distribution to local information points. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members.

We have also provided information on the draft recommendations directly to parish councils and community organisations as well as notifying local press and media.

I would be grateful if you could also take steps to bring the consultation to the attention of the public and interested parties. In particular, please include details of the consultation:

- On your website;
- Promote the consultation through social media and;
- Use any other channels you would normally employ to engage residents in local consultations (newsletters, press releases, publications etc).

The Commission would be happy to provide information and/or copy to help you promote the consultation locally.

## **Draft recommendations**

The Commission considered all the submissions it received in the previous stages of the review before drawing up the draft recommendations.

We have sought to balance the criteria we must follow when drawing up recommendations, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough.
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council currently holds elections by thirds. Where a council elects by thirds, Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that the Commission should have regard to the desirability of recommending that each ward returns three councillors, subject to its other statutory criteria of achieving electoral equality, reflecting community identity and providing for effective and convenient local government. This reflects Parliament's view that each elector in a local authority should have the same opportunity to vote in local elections, irrespective of that authority's cycle of elections.

The Commission will consider all representations made on the draft recommendations and has an open mind about amending the scheme if an alternative pattern of wards would better meet the statutory criteria above. It is also important for respondents to the consultation to indicate where and why they support the draft recommendations.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of wards and putting forward alternative proposals is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf).

We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/10409/proposing-new-wards-guidance.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/10409/proposing-new-wards-guidance.pdf).

Our website includes information about previous electoral reviews of metropolitan borough councils where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other counties, districts and parishes responded to consultations on draft recommendations.

As ever, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the consultation.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

Correspondence relating to the review – and consultation responses - should be addressed to:

Review Officer (Knowsley)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Responses to the consultation can also be made directly through our specialist consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/3670>.

Further information on electoral reviews can also be found at our main website at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/merseyside/knowsley>.

Your direct contacts for the review remain:

Mark Pascoe, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review: email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 020 7664 8531.

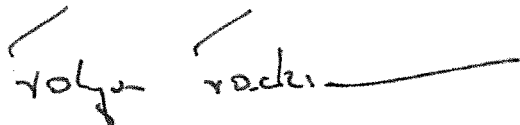
Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 3rd Floor Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 8534; Fax: 020 7298 6788; [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

Tim Bowden, Review Manager, leads the team dealing with this and other electoral reviews: email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); tel: 020 7664 8514.

I am copying this letter to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)  
020 7664 8537

Cc : MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Knowsley  
Parish and Town Councils in Knowsley  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside  
Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group  
Local organisations in Knowsley