

Ian Miller
Chief Executive
Wyre Forest District Council
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY11 7WF

25 June 2013

Dear Mr Miller

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYRE FOREST

Following my letter of 18 March 2013, I am writing to formally announce the start of the electoral review of Wyre Forest District Council. As you are aware, Wyre Forest is being reviewed following a request from your 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, 25 June 2013. The Commission will initially consult on 33 councillors for Wyre Forest – we refer to this as council size. The closing date for submissions on council size is **6 August 2013**. 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 September 2013 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 ward boundaries which we expect to run from 24 September 2013 to 16 December 2013.

After this date the Commission will formulate our draft recommendations, which we expect to publish in March 2014. 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. Following this consultation period, the Commission will formulate the final recommendations; we expect to publish these in late 2014.

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

An interactive map of existing wards in Wyre Forest, electoral figures and guidance on how to have your say on council size is available in the consultation area 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:

- Arion Lawrence, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
email: arion.lawrence@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8513;
- Jessica Metheringham, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: Jessica.metheringham@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7664 8525.

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

Yours sincerely



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Director of Reviews
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