

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Mr Mark Cullinan
Chief Executive
Lancaster City Council
Town Hall
Dalton Square
Lancaster
LA1 1PJ

24 July 2012

Dear Mr Cullinan,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LANCASTER

Following my letter of 1 May 2012, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision on the most appropriate council size for Lancaster City Council, and to formally announce the next stage of the electoral review. Lancaster is being reviewed in order to improve the levels of electoral representation in the city, which have become imbalanced since the last review. Based on the figures of December 2011, the councillors in Ellet ward represent 42% more electors than the city average.

The Commission considered the submissions received during its public consultation on council size at its meeting on 10 July 2012. The Commission noted the range of views offered on the most appropriate council size for Lancaster and concluded that insufficient evidence had been provided to support a specific reduction in membership. On the balance of the evidence available, the Commission was minded to recommend a council size of 60 members. The review now moves to a period of information gathering to develop a new pattern of warding arrangements for Lancaster.

A copy of the Commission's press release, and posters advertising the start of this stage 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.

A detailed technical guidance document, *Electoral reviews: technical guidance*

is available on our website, at www.lgbce.org.uk. This document contains all the statutory information about the review process and information regarding the warding patterns. Hard copies are also being sent to your council.

Review timetable

The information gathering stage for a new pattern of warding arrangements begins today, 24 July 2012. We expect this information gathering stage to conclude on 15 October 2012. Once we have considered all the information we receive, we will take a provisional decision on warding arrangements and communicate this with you. It is intended that the draft recommendations will be published in January 2013.

The draft recommendations will also be available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk, be sent to your Council, to those organisations and individuals listed at the end of this letter, and to all those who submit information as representations during this stage. There will be a further eight week period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Commission considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations. We expect to publish the final recommendations in June 2013.

Understanding Lancaster's communities

The Commission 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.

To further these aims, the Commission needs a good understanding of community identity in Lancaster. We particularly want to develop our understanding as to which areas communities identify with and how and why. We are interested in all local information which enhances this understanding. For example –

- Economic/demographic data and mapping
- Community village usage mapping
- Local place surveys
- Partner/stakeholder details

Creating a warding pattern

All proposals for warding patterns 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 Commission than those which merely assert a point of view.

Please feel free to contact us at any time (details below) should you have any questions. Officers at the Commission will be happy to assist with technical aspects of your warding scheme if you require, either in person or via email or telephone. This is an open offer, which can be utilised at any point during the information gathering period.

Correspondence and enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

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

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

- Simon Keal, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review.
email: simon.keal@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7644 8529
- Daniel Edwards, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: daniel.edwards@lgbce.org.uk; Tel: 020 7644 8536.

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

Yours sincerely



Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
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020 7664 8509

cc Lancashire County Council
MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Lancaster
Headquarters of the main political parties
Lancashire Police Authority
Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
NHS Lancashire
NHS North West
Lancashire Association of Local Councils
Parish and town councils in Lancaster