

# Electoral review July 2011

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

## Summary

## Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Buckinghamshire County Council

### Who we are:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas.

### Electoral reviews:

The purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of electoral divisions – for a local authority.

### Why Buckinghamshire?

We are conducting an electoral review of Buckinghamshire County Council to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Buckinghamshire currently has high levels of electoral inequality so that the value of your vote - in county council elections - varies depending on where you live in the county.

### Council size

Buckinghamshire County Council currently has a council size of 57 county councillors.

During the council size consultation the Commission received proposals for council sizes ranging from 10 to 57 members.

Having considered all the evidence received, we have decided to propose a council size of 49 as part of our draft recommendations.

We consider that a council size of 49 members will ensure the council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and will provide for a pattern of divisions that reflects community identities in Buckinghamshire.

### Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Buckinghamshire's 49 county councillors should represent 49 single-member electoral divisions across the county.

Stage	Stage starts	Description
Council Size	12 Oct 2010	Submission of proposals for council size to the LGBCE
One	11 Jan 2011	Submission of proposals of division arrangements to the LGBCE
Two	4 Apr 2011	LGBCE's analysis and deliberation
Three	19 July 2011	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	10 Oct 2011	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

## Submissions received

During Stage One of the review, we received 20 submissions.

All submissions can be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

## General analysis

Having considered the authority-wide scheme received from the County Council, we consider that, overall, it provides for good levels of electoral equality and strong, easily identifiable boundaries. However, based on submissions from parish councils, local residents and our conclusions following a tour of the county, we have proposed some changes to the scheme proposed by the County Council in all four districts.

We have proposed modifications in some areas to improve electoral equality, reflect communication and

transport links within divisions and to avoid creating unviable parish wards.

## Electorate figures

As part of this review, Buckinghamshire County Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2017, projecting an increase in electorate of just over 4% over the period from 2010 to 2017.

We are satisfied that the methodology used was rigorous and so are content to accept these forecast electorate figures as the basis for our draft recommendations.

## What happens next?

There will now be a 12-week consultation period on the draft recommendations. We will take into account all submissions received by 10 October 2011.

We have not finalised our conclusions on the

electoral arrangements for Buckinghamshire and welcome comments from interested parties relating to the proposed division boundaries, number of councillors and division names. We would welcome alternative proposals backed up by demonstrable evidence during Stage Three. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

Express your views by writing directly to us:

Review Officer  
Buckinghamshire Review  
The Local Government  
Boundary Commission for  
England  
Layden House  
76–86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

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

The full report and accompanying maps are available to download at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament in April 2010. It is independent of government and political parties, and is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.**

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