

15 March 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICTS: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for:

- East Sussex County Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Hastings Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Rother District Council
- Wealden District Council

Today is the start of a thirteen week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations on new district ward and county division boundaries across East Sussex County Council and districts. **The consultation closes on 16 June 2016.**

View the draft recommendations

You can view the Commission's draft recommendations at:

- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6010> - East Sussex County Council
- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6014> - Eastbourne Borough Council
- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6012> - Hastings Borough Council
- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6013> - Lewes District Council
- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6015> - Rother District Council
- <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6011> - Wealden District Council

You can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say at the links above. The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and now invites representations on the draft recommendations.

Enclosed with this letter is a summary outlining the Commission's draft recommendations for East Sussex and relevant district. An interactive map of the Commission's recommendations, electorate figures and guidance on how to propose new wards and/or divisions is available on the consultation area at:

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk. Further information about the review and the Commission's work is also published on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

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 district and 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.

Have your say

We encourage everyone who has a view on the draft recommendations to contact us whether you support them or whether you wish to propose alternative arrangements.

Before finalising the recommendations, the Commission will consider every representation received during consultation whether it is submitted by an individual, a local group or an organisation. We will weigh each submission against the criteria the Commission must follow when drawing up electoral arrangements:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county or district.
- That the pattern of wards and electoral divisions 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.

The table below summarises the Commission's draft recommendations. In particular the table includes the number of county councillors which are allocated to each district under a total council size of 50 for East Sussex County Council. The table also shows how many electors per councillor the Commission has aimed to achieve in its scheme to deliver electoral fairness as well as summarising whether the Commission has proposed one, two or three member wards. Please note that the Commission has a statutory duty to favour a uniform pattern of two-member wards across Hastings due to its electoral cycle:

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Local Authority	No. of district cllrs	No. of county cllrs	Electors per district cllr	Electors per county cllr	Notes
East Sussex County Council	N/A	50	N/A	8638	The Commission has proposed a uniform pattern of single-member divisions
Eastbourne Borough Council	27	9	2846	8638	The Commission has proposed a uniform pattern of three-member wards
Hastings Borough Council	32	8	2065	8638	The Commission has proposed a uniform pattern of two-member wards to reflect the electoral cycle
Lewes District Council	41	9	1993	8638	The Commission has proposed a mixed pattern of one-, two- or three-member wards
Rother District Council	38	9	2027	8638	The Commission has proposed a mixed pattern of one- or two member wards
Wealden District Council	45	15	2894	8638	The Commission has proposed a mixed pattern of one- or two member wards

It is important that you take account of the criteria if you are suggesting an alternative pattern of wards and/or divisions. Accordingly, all proposals should demonstrate how they meet the Commission's statutory criteria. The Commission will take decisions based on the strength of the evidence presented to it and not merely on assertion. For example, details of community interests such as the location and use made of local facilities, services and local organisations will carry greater weight than submissions that simply assert that the area has a community identity.

The Commission will consider all submissions on their merit. A well-evidenced submission from an individual which addresses the statutory criteria will be more persuasive than one which does not, even if the latter is from an elected individual or body.

You can find additional guidance and information about previous electoral reviews on our website to help you or your organisation make a submission.

Get in touch

The Commission welcomes comments on the recommendations report by 16 June 2016. Representations should be made:

- Through our interactive consultation portal where you can explore the maps of the recommendations, draw your own boundaries and supply comments at: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- By email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.
- Or in writing to:
Review Officer (East Sussex)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

The Commission aims to publish every response it receives during phases of consultation. If you do not want all or any part of your response or name to be made public, you must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary. All responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

This is the last opportunity to influence the Commission's recommendations before they are finalised. We therefore encourage local people to get in touch with us and have their say.

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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1290

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