

AGENDA ITEM No. 21 ,

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

24 November 2015

Dear Parish or Town Clerk,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has formally commenced an electoral review of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the review and seek your views on future ward boundaries for the council.

The Commission is carrying out a review to deliver electoral equality for voters across the district. At present, some councillors represent many more, or many fewer, electors than their colleagues elsewhere in the district. The review aims to correct those imbalances.

What is an electoral review?

The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for South Cambridgeshire District Council. In particular, it will propose:

- The total number of councillors elected to the council in the future.
- The number of wards.
- The number of councillors representing each ward.
- Ward boundaries.
- Names of wards.

For parishes, the review can 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. Even in these circumstances, the Commission will not normally recommend any change to the number of councillors to be elected to a parish or town council. The Commission has no power to consider changes to the external boundaries of a parish or the creation of new parishes.

When?

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; www.lgbce.org.uk

Today 24 November 2015 is the start of a 10 week public consultation during which the Commission is inviting proposals for new warding arrangements. The consultation will close on 1 February 2016. After considering all representations made during this consultation, the Commission intends to publish draft recommendations in May 2016. There will then be a further period of consultation on the draft recommendations. Final recommendations are expected to be published in September 2016. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2018.

How to get involved?

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across the district on where they think new ward patterns should be drawn.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 45 councillors should be elected to South Cambridgeshire District Council in the future. It is now inviting proposals to help it draw up a pattern of wards to accommodate 45 councillors.

In drawing up a pattern of wards, the Commission must balance three criteria, which are set out in law, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.
- 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.

South Cambridgeshire District Council currently holds elections by thirds, but has taken the decision to move to whole council elections from 2018.

We are asking local people and organisations for their views as to the best pattern of wards for the district which meet the requirements set out above.

The Commission will treat all submissions equally and will judge each case on its merits and against the statutory criteria. If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that your submission is supported by evidence. For example, if you wish to argue that two parishes should be included in the same ward, make sure you tell the Commission why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is plenty more advice on our website about how you can get involved in the consultation and put your views forward. Log on to www.lgbce.org.uk to find out more. The website includes the technical guidance that explains the process and our policies as well as guidance on how to take part in each part of the process. We have set up a page on our site which is dedicated to the review of South Cambridgeshire District Council where you can find all the relevant information.

You can also access interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across the district on our specialist consultation portal. The portal also allows you to draw your own boundaries, mark areas of interest on the map and upload documents directly to the site. Log on to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6215> to access the portal or find it via our main website.

Get in touch

We encourage as many people and organisations as possible to get involved with the consultation and we encourage local organisations and parish councils to engage their local networks and communities in the review.

View interactive maps of the district, draw your own boundaries and have your say at our specialist consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6215>

Find out more about the review at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/south-cambridgeshire>

Email your views to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

Follow us on Twitter at: [@lgbce](https://twitter.com/lgbce).

Write to: Review Officer (South Cambridgeshire)
 Local Government Boundary Commission for England
 14th Floor Millbank Tower
 Millbank
 London
 SW1P 4QP

This phase of consultation closes on 1 February 2016. We will write to you again when we open our consultation on draft recommendations.

Please note that in the interests of transparency, copies of all representations we receive during this review will be placed on our website. We remove any personal identifying information such as signatures and private residential addresses prior to placing any submissions in the public domain.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; www.lgbce.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Emily Starkie
Review Officer

reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1280

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Ms Jean Hunter
Chief Executive
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

24 November 2015

Dear Ms Hunter

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I am writing to inform you that the Commission has, today, opened its consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 45 councillors should be elected to South Cambridgeshire District Council in future. The Commission now invites proposals from the council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of wards to accommodate those councillors.

The consultation begins today and will end on 1 February 2016.

Publicising the review

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members. Furthermore, a copy of the Commission's press release and posters advertising this stage of the review are being sent to your Council. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the consultation by arranging for copies to be placed 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. In particular, we would appreciate it if you could promote the consultation online, via social media and any other channels you would normally use to engage with residents.

Further details about the review are available on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/south-cambridgeshire> where there is information about how to get involved and the kind of evidence the Commission is seeking in support of any proposed warding patterns.

In addition, the Commission's consultation portal allows visitors to interact with online maps of the current wards, draw their own boundaries and feed views into the consultation process directly. The portal is available at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6215>

Submissions can also be made by email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk and by post to the address at the end of this letter.

Review timetable

This phase of consultation closes on 1 February 2016.

Once the Commission has considered all the proposals received during this phase of consultation, it plans to publish draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in May 2016. Public consultation on the draft recommendations is scheduled to take place between May 2016 and July 2016. Once the Commission has considered the representations and evidence as part of that consultation, it intends to publish final recommendations in September 2016.

New electoral arrangements for the district are scheduled to come into effect at the district council elections in 2018.

Creating a pattern of wards

In drawing up a pattern of wards, the Commission must balance its three statutory criteria, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.
- 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.

The Commission will test proposals against the criteria before drawing up draft recommendations. Accordingly, all proposals should demonstrate how they meet the three requirements. 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 demonstrating how a community manifests itself will carry greater weight than submissions that simply assert that an area has community identity.

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

Further information on drawing up a pattern of electoral wards is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance>. We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-08-04.pdf.

Our website includes information about previous electoral reviews of district councils where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other counties, districts and parishes built their own pattern of wards.

Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any questions. Officers at the Commission will be happy to assist with technical aspects of your warding scheme either in person or via email or telephone.

Correspondence and enquiries

Correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

Review Officer (South Cambridgeshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower,
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

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

- Emily Starkie, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review
email: Reviews@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1280
- Richard Buck, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews
email: Reviews@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1271.

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

Yours sincerely



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

Cc Cambridgeshire County Council
 MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in South Cambridgeshire
 Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire
 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters
 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
 Local Organisations in South Cambridgeshire
 Parish and Town Councils in South Cambridgeshire

Electoral Review of South Cambridgeshire

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is carrying out an electoral review of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The review will draw new council ward boundaries across South Cambridgeshire.

The Commission has also announced that 45 councillors should be elected to the council in future: 12 fewer than the current arrangements.

Now we are asking for evidence about your local area to help us decide a new pattern of wards for South Cambridgeshire.

Your views will make a difference

Local people know their area best. That's why we are asking you for evidence on a range of issues:

- Do you have suggestions about where your ward boundaries should be?
- Which areas do you identify as your local community?
- Where do people in your area go to access local facilities such as shops and leisure activities?

For more details and interactive maps, visit:

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

Send your views to:

The Review Officer (South Cambridgeshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

The consultation closes on **1 February 2016**

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