16 JUN 2017

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Mr Steve Vinson
Liskeard Town Council
East SDA - Liskeard & Looe CNA
3/5 West Street
Liskeard
PL14 6BW

13 June 2017

Dear Mr Vinson

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CORNWALL

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has today formally commenced an electoral review in Cornwall Council. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the review and to seek your views on the number of councillors for Cornwall Council.

I have also enclosed a copy of the letter to the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council and a paper about the consultation for further information.

What is an electoral review?

The electoral review will decide four things:

- Total number of councillors elected to the council.
- Boundaries of all electoral divisions represented by councillors.
- Number of councillors elected to each division.
- The name of each division.

Before we start to draw new division boundaries across Cornwall, the Commission will take a view on the total number of councillors for the council in the future. The Commission has proposed that 87 councillors should be elected to Cornwall Council in the future. We are now asking for your views on that proposal.

When?

The closing date for submissions on councillor numbers is 7 August 2017. Once we have considered all the representations we receive, we will publish our formal view and open a new phase of consultation on division boundaries.

Following this the Commission will begin a public consultation on new warding arrangements. We expect this consultation to run from 26 September 2017 to 4

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 3rd Floor Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 8534; Fax: 020 7298 6788; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; **www.lgbce.org.uk**

December 2017. We will write to you again when we open our consultations on electoral arrangements.

After considering all representations made during this consultation, the Commission intends to publish draft recommendations in March 2018. There will then be a further period of consultation on the draft recommendations. Final recommendations are expected to be published in July 2018. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2021.

How to get involved?

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across Cornwall on how many councillors should be elected to Cornwall Council. Council size is the starting point of the review as this decides the optimum number of electors each councillor should represent. It is therefore important the Commission is able to reach views on the appropriate council size for Cornwall Council before we invite proposals on electoral arrangements.

Questions to consider

Those taking part in the consultation may wish to consider the following questions:

1. Do you think 87 is the right number of councillors to be able to take decisions effectively?
2. Would a council size of 87 enable the Council to represent the interests of all Cornwall's communities?
3. If you don't agree that Cornwall should be represented by 87 councillors, what would your alternative number be, and why?

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 evidence supports your submission.

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 Cornwall Council where you can find all the relevant information.

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.

Find out more about the review at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

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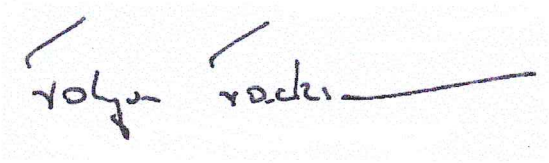
Email your views to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

Follow us on Twitter at: @lgbce.

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

Please note that the interests of transparency, copies of the 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.

Yours sincerely



Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
Reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1525

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Ms Kate Kennally
Chief Executive
Cornwall Council
County Hall
Truro
CORNWALL
TR1 3AY

13 June 2017

Dear Ms Kennally

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CORNWALL

I am writing to inform you that the Commission has, today, opened a consultation inviting comments on the number of councillors for Cornwall Council.

The Commission will initially consult on the number of 87 councillors for Cornwall – we refer to this as council size.

Why 87?

The Commission received four submissions on council size during the preliminary period of the review. Cornwall Council proposed a council size of 99, a reduction of 24 members from the current size. This was supported by an additional submission from the Liberal Democrat group. The Conservative group proposed a larger reduction in size, to 85 members. An independent councillor proposed a smaller reduction, to 113.

The Commission considered all the evidence received at its April meeting. It was noted that all of the submissions proposed a reduction in the size of the council and the Commission agreed that there was a strong case for moving to a reduced council size. However, despite the extensive material presented, it was not felt that any individual submission provided sufficient persuasive evidence to justify a single option over the others, although it was considered that the range 85-95 put forward by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) had merit and was cited in more than one of the submissions. Commissioners also noted the more specific comments made by CALC including the desirability of 'fit' with existing community networks.

The Commission judged that, taken as a whole, the evidence that had been presented pointed towards a council size of 87 as being the most appropriate. In particular, this number offered the 'best fit' with the existing community networks. Also, when selecting a number at this stage in any review, the Commission allows for the possibility of a small modification of the final number (i.e. plus or minus 1 councillor) during the construction of the warding pattern if this would enable it to comply better with the statutory criteria. It was noted, therefore, that the figures either side of 87 (i.e. 86 and 88) also provided a 'good fit'.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; Fax: 0330 500 1526; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; **www.lgbce.org.uk**

However, since this particular number had not been specifically put forward, the Commission considers that there is benefit in inviting further comment from the Council, other stakeholders, and the public before confirming a final size.

Questions to consider

Those taking part in the consultation may wish to consider the following questions:

1. Do you think 87 is the right number of councillors to be able to take decisions effectively?
2. Would a council size of 87 enable the Council to represent the interests of all Cornwall's communities?
3. If you don't agree that Cornwall should be represented by 87 councillors, what would your alternative number be, and why?

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 residents.

Further details about the review are available on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk where there is Guidance on how to have your say on council. Technical guidance can be found on the *Policy and publications* page of our website.

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

The closing date for submissions on council size is 7 August 2017. Once we have considered all the representations we receive, we will take a decision on council size.

It is intended that these conclusions will be publicised in September 2017 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 26 September to 4 December.

After this date the Commission will formulate our draft recommendations, which we expect to publish in March 2018. A ten-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 July 2018.

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

Correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

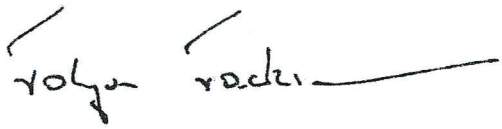
Review Officer (Cornwall)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower,
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

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
- Lucy Dunkeyson, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews

I am copying this letter to the organisations listed below.

Yours sincerely



Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1525

cc MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Cornwall
Parish and Town Councils in Cornwall
Local Organisations in Cornwall

The
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How many councillors for Cornwall?

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

The first part of this electoral review is for the Commission to decide how many councillors should be elected to Cornwall Council in future.

Cornwall Council currently has 123 councillors. The Commission is proposing that the council should have 87 councillors in future.

Before we take a formal decision, we are asking for local views on the proposal.

Background

The electoral review will decide four things:

- Total number of councillors elected to the council.
- Boundaries of all electoral divisions represented by councillors.
- Number of councillors elected to each division.
- The name of each division.

Before we start to draw new division boundaries across Cornwall, the Commission will take a view on the total number of councillors for Cornwall in the future. We are asking for your help to decide that number.

Our proposal: 87 councillors for Cornwall Council

The Commission proposes that Cornwall Council should have 87 councillors in future.

The Commission has considered evidence from Cornwall Council, councillors and local political parties about how the council takes decisions, how people are represented and how things might change in the future.

All the submissions received by the Commission proposed that there should be a reduction in the total number of councillors. The evidence suggested that a reduction in councillors would help the council improve the way it takes decisions and sets priorities for Cornwall.

Fewer councillors would also reflect the council's ambition to transfer responsibilities to Parish and Town Councils and for all levels of local government in Cornwall to work together effectively.

The Commission agrees that the evidence points towards a reduction in the number of councillors elected to Cornwall Council. However, the submissions included evidence to support different proposed numbers (ranging from 85 to 113).

The Commission proposes that 87 councillors should represent Cornwall in future because it would both reflect the evidence we received to support an overall reduction in numbers but also allows new electoral divisions potentially to fit well with the existing Community Networks. Cornwall's Community Networks bring together the council, Town and Parish Councils and others in defined geographic areas across the county.

Public consultation

The Commission has not taken a final decision on the number of councillors for Cornwall. We want to hear your views on our proposal before we move to the next stage of the review. Some questions to consider as part of this consultation are:

1. Do you think 87 is the right number of councillors to be able to take decisions effectively?
2. Would a council size of 87 enable the Council to represent the interests of all Cornwall's communities?
3. If you don't agree that Cornwall should be represented by 87 councillors, what would your alternative number be, and why?

You do not have to answer the questions directly but you might find them helpful in putting together a consultation response.

Have your`say

This consultation is open to any organisation, local group or person who is interested in how Cornwall is led over the coming years.

Feel free to share this note with anyone else who might be interested in the consultation.

Please send your responses to:

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Consultation portal: consultation.lgbce.org.uk (where you can directly type your submission or upload documents)

Post: Review Officer (Cornwall)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

There is plenty of information on our website (www.lgbce.org.uk) to help you make a submission including the evidence we received in the previous phase of the review.

This consultation is open now and closes at midnight on **7 August 2017**.

What happens next?

The Commission will consider all the responses to this consultation and publish all responses on its website shortly after it closes.

In September 2017, the Commission will publish its formal view on the number of councillors for Cornwall. At the same time, it will open the first of two phases of public consultation on new division boundaries.

We plan to finalise new electoral arrangements (number of councillors and all division boundaries) in July 2018 with the new set up coming into effect at the scheduled local elections in May 2021.

13 June – 7 August 2017	Public consultation on number of councillors
September – December 2017	Public consultation on new division boundaries
March – May 2018	Public consultation on draft recommendations
July 2018	Final recommendations published
May 2021	New arrangements come into effect