

8 January 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HOUNSLOW: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has formally commenced an electoral review of the London Borough of Hounslow. 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 has a legal duty to carry out an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time'. Hounslow Council has not been reviewed since 1999 and the Commission has therefore decided that it should review Hounslow in advance of the elections in 2022.

### **What is an electoral review?**

The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Hounslow Council. 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

### **When?**

8 January 2019 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 18 March 2019. After considering all representations made during this consultation, the Commission intends to publish draft recommendations in August 2019. There will then be a further period of consultation on the draft recommendations. Final recommendations are expected to be published in October 2019. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2022.

### **How to get involved?**

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

The Commission is minded to recommend that 60 councillors should be elected to the London Borough of Hounslow in the future. It is now inviting proposals to help it draw up a pattern of wards to accommodate 60 borough councillors.

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

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

We are asking local people and organisations for their views as to the best pattern of wards for the borough which meet the requirements set out above. We encourage local organisations to engage their local networks and communities in the review.

The Commission will treat all submissions equally and will judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria. If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission. For example, if you wish to argue that two areas should be included in the same electoral 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 more advice on our website, at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk), about how you can get involved in the consultation. Our website features 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 website which is dedicated to the review of Hounslow, where you can find all the relevant information.

### **Get in touch**

View interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across the borough, draw your own boundaries, mark areas of interest, upload documents and have your say, on our specialist consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

Find out more about the review at: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

Email your views to: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

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

Write to:       Review Officer (Hounslow)  
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This phase of consultation closes on **18 March 2019**. We will write to you again when we open our consultation on draft recommendations.

The Commission aims to publish every response it receives during phases of consultation. We will remove all personal information from your submission before publication. You can find out more about how we deal with consultation responses and your personal data at: [www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/privacy](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/privacy).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cooper', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Mark Cooper**  
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