

Mr David Cockburn  
Head of Paid Service  
Kent County Council  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XQ

29 September 2015

Dear Mr Cockburn,

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KENT: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION FOR SEVENOAKS**

Following consultation on draft recommendations for Kent, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision to undertake a further period of limited consultation in **Sevenoaks** prior to publication of its final recommendations.

During the consultation on the draft recommendations for Kent, the Commission received 157 submissions, including 23 for Sevenoaks and support for a significantly different division pattern in Sevenoaks.

In light of the representations received during the recent consultation, the Commission is proposing to make significant alterations to its draft recommendations in the Sevenoaks area of the county. We are therefore inviting further comment on this alternative proposal. Copies of all representations can be found on the Commission's website - <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/kent-county-council>

This period of further limited consultation commences today, **29 September 2015**, and closes on **26 October 2015**. During this period the Commission welcomes comments on the proposed recommendations for divisions in Sevenoaks.

Electorate information for the area subject to further consultation can be found at the end of this letter. The Commission's final recommendations for the whole county, including that area subject to further limited consultation, will now be published on 19 January 2016. Enclosed with this letter is a map illustrating the Commission's further proposals for Sevenoaks.

#### **Sevenoaks**

In Sevenoaks the draft recommendations were for the single member divisions of Darent Valley, Sevenoaks East, Sevenoaks North East, Sevenoaks Rural, Sevenoaks West and Swanley. These divisions would have 3% more, 1% fewer, 1% fewer, 7% more, 3% fewer and 10% more electors than the county average by 2020, respectively.

In response to the draft recommendations the Commission received 22 submissions commenting specifically on the Sevenoaks area. There was some support for the proposals for Swanley division. The remainder of the submissions were in opposition to the proposals for Swanley, Sevenoaks Town and the parish of Westerham. We received a full alternative proposal for Sevenoaks from Sevenoaks District Council.

The Commission carefully considered the evidence received for the Sevenoaks area and noted the alternative proposal from Sevenoaks District Council. The Commission identified this proposal as meeting its three statutory criteria. Given that the proposed pattern of divisions has not been consulted on previously, the Commission decided to conduct this period of further limited consultation to seek the views of local residents and organisations.

### **Further Consultation**

The Commission is now undertaking a further period of limited consultation on the electoral divisions in Sevenoaks. The Commission would like to hear whether you support its proposed changes and the reasons for your views.

Representations must be submitted to the Commission by **26 October 2015**. The Commission has not finalised its recommendations and, in light of further evidence, may make further revisions to its proposals in Sevenoaks. We therefore encourage those who have a view on the proposals to write to us, whether they agree with them or not. All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account and the Commission will then consider whether or not to further amend its proposals prior to the publication of its final recommendations.

Representations should be made in writing to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or:

Review Officer (Kent)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Any respondents who submit comments during this period of the review, and do not want all or any part of the response or name made public, must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary, but all information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000). Following the conclusion of this

further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations forwarding arrangements in Kent

If you have any queries, please contact Mark Cooper on 0330 500 1272, or [mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
[Jolyon.jackson@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:Jolyon.jackson@lgbce.org.uk)  
0330 500 1290

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

**ELECTORATE INFORMATION – divisions subject to further consultation**

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Sevenoaks East & Darent Valley	1	16,034	16,034	19%	15,629	15,629	9%
Sevenoaks Rural North East	1	14,628	14,628	8%	14,154	14,154	-1%
Sevenoaks Rural South	1	13,203	13,203	-2%	13,006	13,006	-9%
Sevenoaks Town	1	14,692	14,692	9%	14,715	14,715	3%
Sevenoaks West	1	14,749	14,749	9%	15,102	15,102	6%
Swanley	1	15,442	15,442	14%	15,416	15,416	8%