

13 June 2008

Dear Colleague

BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW PROGRAMME

With the commencement of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Boundary Committee for England is seeking to identify potential pressures for reviews from local authorities, with a view to developing a rolling programme of review work over the next three years (2009 to 2011).

The 2007 Act provides a number of flexibilities for both local government and the Boundary Committee in terms electoral and administrative boundary reviews:

- Local authorities that hold whole council elections, or have resolved to move to such a cycle of elections, may now request the Electoral Commission to direct the Boundary Committee to undertake electoral reviews with a view to providing for single-member wards (subject to the Committee's statutory criteria); and
- The Boundary Committee may now undertake administrative boundary reviews of principal authorities on its own initiative, at the request of a local authority or at the request of the Secretary of State.

The Boundary Committee's work programme for 2008 is already established and no reviews in addition to those already identified will be commenced this year (see indicative programme attached). The work programme for 2009 is less defined and is subject to the outcome of the Committee's structural reviews in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk and the Secretary of State's decisions on any proposals for structural change the Committee submits to her.

The Boundary Committee
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW

Tel 020 7271 0500
Fax 020 7271 0505
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500
info@boundarycommittee.org.uk
www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

To facilitate planning the Boundary Committee's programme of work for 2009 through to 2011, it would be extremely helpful to know if your authority is thinking about an electoral or administrative boundary review in the near future. If so, it would also be helpful to know the year in which, optimally, a review might best be carried out and, for electoral reviews, the year of implementation. In relation to any administrative boundary reviews, we would also like to know the extent of the potential change involved.

If your Council foresees the need for a review, it would be helpful to know by **29 August 2008**. Please contact William Morrison (wmorrison@electoralcommission.org.uk, telephone 020 7271 0512).

The Boundary Committee will, of course, continue to monitor local authority electoral arrangements more generally, with a view to identifying those authorities with electoral imbalances that warrant a further electoral review (FER).

If you have any queries about this letter, or would like to discuss the potential for an electoral or administrative boundary review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Archie Gall

Archie Gall
Director
agall@electoralcommission.org.uk
020 7271 0650

The Electoral Commission

Boundary Committee indicative work programme

2008

Electoral reviews: Isle of Wight (complete June 2008)
Cornwall (commenced February 2008)
Shropshire (complete October 2008)
Wiltshire (complete October 2008)
Northumberland (start July 2008)
Co Durham (start July 2008)

Structural reviews: Devon (complete December 2008)
Norfolk (complete December 2008)
Suffolk (complete December 2008)

2009

Electoral reviews: Northumberland (complete autumn 2009)
Co Durham (complete autumn 2009)
Bedford (start spring 2009)
Central Bedfordshire (start spring 2009)
Cheshire East (start spring 2009)
Cheshire West and Chester (start spring 2009)
Reviews of any new authorities to be created in Devon, Norfolk or Suffolk
(start spring 2009, complete autumn 2009)

2010

Electoral reviews: Bedford (complete 2010)
Central Bedfordshire (complete 2010)
Cheshire East (complete 2010)
Cheshire West and Chester (complete 2010)

