

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

David Cockburn
Corporate Director of Strategic and Corporate Services and Head of Paid Services
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

1 December 2014

Dear Mr Cockburn

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KENT

As you are aware, the Commission met on the 18 November to consider the appropriate council size for Kent County Council.


The Commission originally considered the appropriate council size for Kent at its meeting on 21 October 2014, where the Commission took the view it had not received sufficient information to justify retaining a council size of 84. The Commission uses the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Nearest Neighbour Model as an aid when deciding on the appropriate council size for authorities. Kent County Council has 84 members and this is out of range when compared to the 15 others in its group according to the CIPFA model. In these circumstances, the Commission requires a strong and compelling case to be put forward to justify a council size that is out of range. In cases where we do not believe the council has made a sufficiently strong case to adopt a council size which is significantly different from its nearest neighbours, we will seek to recommend a council size which is nearer to that of other authorities within the relevant CIPFA grouping.

Therefore, the Commission wrote the council subsequent to its October meeting to outline its concerns and propose a further meeting be held between group leaders and the lead Commissioner Sir Tony Redmond.

At its November meeting, the Commission was given a minute of this meeting held at your offices on 10 November 2014 and your subsequent correspondence. It gave careful consideration to the points that were raised and all the other available evidence and concluded that it should formally adopt a council size of 81. This will provide a good allocation of members across the county as well as being within the range of the 15 authorities with the most similar attributes to Kent as per the Commissions policy in this area.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mark Cooper should you have any further questions regarding the review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jolyon Jackson
Chief Executive

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