

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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Civic Offices
High Street
Epping CM16 4BZ

c.c. Colin Thompson
E. Rowland
J. Philip
7.2.11

4 February 2011

Your ref: PU/IW/ER/11/5/2

 Dear Ian

POTENTIAL REQUEST FOR A RELATED ALTERATION ORDER

Thank you for your letter of 1 February about a potential request your Council may make to the Commission for a related alteration order, to re-align district ward and county division boundaries to an altered parish boundary. We spoke about the issues likely to be raised by such a request

As you recognise in your letter, I cannot commit the Commission to any decision it might make should a formal request be received. The Commission would need to give full and detailed consideration to all the relevant information, including current and five-year forecasts of the electorates in the district wards and county divisions affected, before reaching any conclusions. However, purely on the basis of the levels of electoral equality in the two wards that might be affected, and the levels of electoral equality across the remainder of district wards, I would be minded to recommend to the Commission that it agrees to a request.

However, as I mentioned when we spoke, there are certain consequences of which your Council should be made aware. Your Council elects by thirds, and you informed me that the two district wards affected by any related alterations order do not hold election in the same year. Accordingly, to implement any order, the Commission would need to provide for out-of-turn elections in one of the two wards. This means that the councillor for that ward would have his/her term of office cut short. Provision would then be made

in the order to return that ward to its normal electoral cycle. You Council would be asked for its view on which ward should have the out-of-turn election.

Given that there is also a potential change to a county division boundary, the agreement of the county council should be sought to that proposed change.

Finally, the papers enclosed with your letter suggest that, should the Commission make a related alteration order, the Parliamentary constituency boundary would automatically change. As we discussed, that is not the case. Parliamentary constituency boundaries can only change as a consequence of a review by the (Parliamentary) Boundary Commission for England.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any other queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Daniel Knag (Daniel.knag@lgbce.org.uk; tel 020 7664 8521).




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