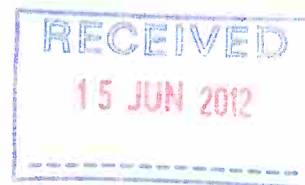




Chief Executive's Department

Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 1DA



Mr A Gall
Director of Reviews
The Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON
EC1M 5LG

Date: 13th June 2012
Our Ref: CE/JMO'F
Your Ref:

Please contact: Margaret Carney
Contact Number: 0151 934 2057
Fax No: 0151 934 2268
e-mail: margaret.carney@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Mr Gall

15/6

LGBCE Electoral Review Programme 2013-14

I refer to your letter dated 18th May 2012 and my subsequent telephone conversation with your Mr Buck regarding the above.

I can confirm that the Council's position remains as outlined in our previous correspondence and that we do not wish to make a formal request for a review at this stage.

Yours sincerely

M Carney

MARGARET CARNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Margaret Carney
Chief Executive



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ms Margaret Carney
Chief Executive
Sefton Council
Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
PR8 1DA

18 May 2012

Dear Ms Carney

LGBCE ELECTORAL REVIEW PROGRAMME 2013 - 2014

I refer to a letter from your former Leader dated 12 January 2011 in which he expressed an interest in the Commission conducting a review of Sefton's electoral arrangements.

The Commission is now formulating its programme of reviews to be conducted in the period up to March 2014 and in doing so, is considering both those areas in which electoral imbalances indicate a need for a review, and the requests from local authorities for reviews made to it.

I note that political control of your Council has changed and your new Leader may have different priorities. However, I should be grateful to know if your Council still wishes to make a formal request for a review. If so, as the Commission develops its review programme, it will consider a request against authorities that require an electoral review.

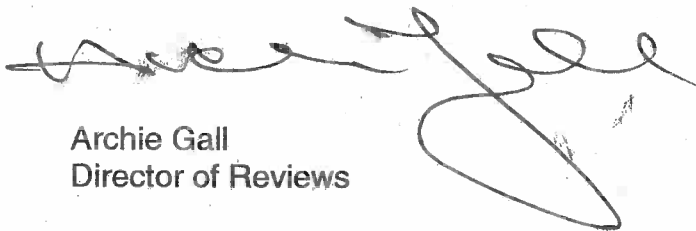
Furthermore, I note that your council was considering a change to its electoral cycle. The Commission would need clarity as to whether this matter has been resolved before progressing with an electoral review.

I should be grateful for a response by **8 June 2012** at the latest. In the light of your response, the Commission will decide whether or not an electoral review is to be undertaken and notify you in due course. If the Commission decides that a review is justified, we will indicate the likely start date and timetable for the review.

If you would like to find further information about the electoral review process, you might find our guidance at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/guidance-policy-and-publications/guidance/er-web-version-jul11.pdf>; this gives a broad indication of the steps that may be involved in a review of your local authority.

We will also have a presence at the Local Government Association conference from 26 – 28 June 2012. Please feel free to visit our stand if you are attending. Alternatively, please contact us if you or any of your group leaders or members attending the conference would like to meet with our Vice Chair, Professor Colin Mellors or myself to discuss the review process in more detail. Please feel free to contact my colleague, Richard Buck (Implementation & Programme Manager), on 020 7664 8511 or e-mail him: richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Gall', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Archie Gall
Director of Reviews

Councillor Tony Robertson
Leader of Sefton Council

Office address:

Town Hall
Lord Street
SOUTHPORT
PR8 1DA

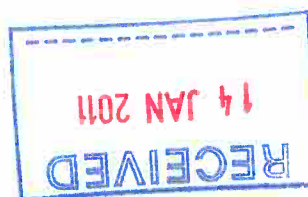
Tel: 0151 934 2252

Fax: 0151 934 2251

e-mail: tony.robertson@sefton.gov.uk

TR/DW

12th January 2011



Max Caller CBE,
Chair,
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
3rd Floor,
Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street,
LONDON,
EC1M 5LG.

Dear Mr. Caller,

LGBCE: future review programme

Further to your letter of 9th December 2010, I am writing to seek clarification of one particular issue.

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council comprises 66 councillors, with 3 members elected by thirds in each of 22 wards. My understanding is that all the wards in the other 35 Metropolitan Boroughs are 3 member wards.

One cost saving suggestion commonly made by members of the public is that Sefton Council could reduce the number of councillors from 66 to 44 "at a stroke" by simply having 2 members per ward rather than 3.

One of my colleagues spoke to one of your officers before Christmas to seek to explore this idea, but received the very clear impression that statute requires Metropolitan Boroughs to have 3 member wards in all (or virtually all) cases. Certainly the impression was given that it would not be permissible to move to 2 member wards across the board.

Sefton wards are presently fairly equal in size and if there were a desire to move to a smaller sized council then moving to 2 member wards would have been a quick and easy solution, although, logically, an all-up election would still be needed.

Obviously a smaller council could be achieved by redrawing every ward boundary so that each new ward was approximately 50% larger than existing wards resulting in a council of (say) 45 councillors; i.e. 15 wards each having 3 councillors. This would require a full review and be very time consuming.

cont....

cont....

May I ask for definitive clarification as to whether it would be possible, under current legislation, for a Metropolitan Borough such as Sefton to move from 100% 3-member wards to 100% 2-member wards?

I look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Robertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Tony Robertson

Councillor Tony Robertson
Leader of Sefton Council
Office address:

Town Hall
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SOUTHPORT
PR8 1DA

Tel: 0151 934 2252

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email: tony.robertson@councillors.sefton.gov.uk

TR/DW
18th January 2011



Mr. M. Caller CBE,
Consultation Response,
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street,
London,
EC1M 5LG.

Dear Mr. Caller,


Local Government Boundary Commission for England – future review programme

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

In response to the issues raised in your letter, I can report that the Council has submitted responses to the two recent consultation papers on electoral reviews and on principal area boundary reviews.

In terms of the Council's views on future electoral reviews and principal area boundary reviews, the Council would prefer to wait until the outcome of the consultation processes referred to above before expressing any view.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Robertson".

Councillor Tony Robertson
Leader of Sefton Council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Councillor Tony Robertson
Leader
Sefton Council
Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport PR8 1DA

9 February 2011

Your Ref: TR/DW

Dear Cllr Robertson

LGBCE FUTURE REVIEW PROGRAMME

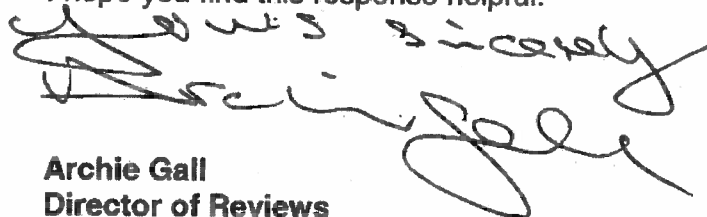
Thank you for your letters of 12 and 18 January to Max Caller, Chair of the Commission, about the Commission's future review programme.

In your letter of 12 January, you ask whether it would be possible for Sefton to move from a uniform pattern of three-member wards to a uniform pattern of two-member wards. Unfortunately, the answer is no. Under the provisions of paragraph 2(3)(d) of Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, there is a presumption that local authorities that elect by thirds should return three members from each ward. Any departure from this presumption would need to be justified by reference to the other criteria set out in paragraph 2(3).

However, under the terms of the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007 (Part 2, Chapter 1), the council can resolve to change its electoral cycle so that it elects by whole council or by halves instead of by thirds. In that case, the legislation allows the Commission to recommend a mixed pattern of single-member, two- or three-member wards (in the case of whole council elections) or a presumption in favour of two member wards in the case of councils that elect by halves as set out by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (see paragraph 2(3) (d) of Schedule 2).

The next opportunity your Council will have to resolve to change its electoral cycle in the way described above and as set out in legislation is in the period after its annual general meeting in 2013 and ending on 31 December that year.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely


Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
archie.gall@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8509