The Boundary Committee for England

Part of The Electoral Commission

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Mr J.B Sinnott, Chief Executive Leicestershire County Council County Hall Glenfield Leicester Leicestershire LE3 8RA

28 January 2003



Dear Mr Sinnot

Periodic Electoral Review of Leicestershire County Council

The Committee is required under section 13(2) of the Local Government Act 1992 to undertake periodic electoral reviews of each principal authority area in England, and to recommend to The Electoral Commission whether changes should be made to electoral arrangements.

The purpose of this letter is to announce formally the start of the review of Leicestershire County Council's electoral arrangements on Tuesday, 11 March 2003. The procedures which the Committee will be following in conducting the review are set out in The Electoral Commission's *Guidance and Procedural Advice*. You will have received six copies of this document with my letter of 17 September 2002. I would ask you to make these available for inspection at your main offices, along with copies of this letter.

Your Council is invited to submit representations, which should have regard to the appropriate paragraphs of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (see the *Guidance*). The relevant proformas in the *Guidance* should be completed, together with the other information sought.

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

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



Advertising the Review

The Committee will arrange for public notices announcing the start of the review to appear in your local press. A copy of the public notice, the Committee's press release, and posters about the review will be sent to your council. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the start of the review by placing copies on display, and by taking such other steps you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties.

Information sought and submission of representations

Before the review starts, we would be grateful if you would provide the Committee with the following preliminary information:

- contact names and telephone numbers of your colleagues you expect to be working on the review (if not already provided);
- completion of the schedule of existing (December 2002) electorate of each district ward
 (resulting from the LGCE's most recent district reviews), for each district area in the
 county, and five-year (December 2007) forecasts, on the same basis (see proforma 5 in
 the *Guidance*) with a note explaining the basis of your own electorate forecasts; it would
 be helpful if you could arrange for this information to be placed on deposit from the
 beginning of Stage One so that all interested parties can make use of it in their
 submissions:
- a schedule of the existing (December 2002) electorates of each county division, arranged by district, together with five-year (December 2007) forecasts, on the same basis (proforma 4);
- a copy of the electoral registers for each of the constituent districts (Dec 2002);
- topographical map(s) of the county showing division boundaries, parish boundaries, district boundaries and, if possible, the boundaries of new district wards. In the urban areas of the county, more detailed mapping will be required (for example, at the scale of 1:10,000).
- the names and addresses of all residents associations and high profile community groups in the County Council area (to be provided within the next four weeks).

It is important that such information is made available locally and that every effort is made to facilitate representations from other interested parties, including any from

political groups on the Council and district councils, being made on the basis of accurate current and future electorate figures.

Review Timetable

In conducting the review the Committee will follow the four-stage process set out in section 15 of the 1992 Act, and which is outlined in the *Guidance*. The first stage will start on 11 March 2003 and the Committee requests that all representations should be submitted no later than 7 July 2003. Attention is drawn to the provisions of section 15(3)(a) of the 1992 Act, under which the Committee is required to take into account only those representations received during this period.

In the light of the evidence available to it, the Committee will prepare its draft recommendations. Copies will be sent to your Council, to district councils, and made available to those organisations and individuals listed at the end of this letter, and to all those who submitted representations during Stage One. There will be a period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Committee formulates its final recommendations to The Electoral Commission. The Committee takes this consultation period very seriously; because it may move away from its draft recommendations it is important that all local interests are encouraged to express their views whether or not they agree with the Committee.

The Committee will make all representations available for inspection by appointment after the end of each consultation stage of the review, and will supply a list of respondents on request. Additionally, in order to promote debate locally, all parties making representations to the Committee are requested to copy them to the County Council. Please make these available for public inspection together with your Council's own representations.

Correspondence and Enquiries

All correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to: Team Leader, Leicestershire County Council Review, The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HW, or direct to your main contacts at the Committee who will be:

- Susie Child, Review Leader, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review (020-7271-0695);
- Rachel Hopkins, Team Leader, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews (020-7271-0690).

Copies of this letter are being sent to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely

ARCHIE GALL

Director.

agall@boundarycommittee.org.uk

0207-271-0690

cc MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in the county Headquarters of the main political parties

Local Government Association

National Association of Local Councils

Leicestershire Constabulary

Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Parish & Local Councils

Parish and town councils in the county

District councils in the county

Residents' Associations

Local Community Groups