STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2016 No. 116

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Welwyn Hatfield (Electoral Changes) Order 2016

Made - - - - 4th February 2016
Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2), (3) and (4)

Under section 58(4) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009(**1**) ("the Act") the Local Government Boundary Commission for England(**2**) ("the Commission") published a report dated December 2015 stating its recommendation for changes to the electoral arrangements for the district of Welwyn Hatfield. The Commission has decided to give effect to the recommendations.

A draft of the instrument has been laid before Parliament and a period of forty days has expired and neither House has resolved that the instrument be not made.

The Commission makes the following Order in exercise of the power conferred by section 59(1) of the Act:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Welwyn Hatfield (Electoral Changes) Order 2016.

(2) This article and article 2 come into force on the day after this Order is made.

(3) Articles 3 and 4 of this Order come into force—

(a) for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on the day after this Order is made;

(b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors(**3**) in 2016.

(4) The remainder of this Order comes into force—

(a) for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on the day after this Order is made;

(b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2019.

(**1**) 2009 c.20.

(**2**) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was established on 1st April 2010 by section 55(1) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

(**3**) The ordinary day of election of councillors is prescribed by section 37 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 c.2.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order "the map" means the map marked "Map referred to in the Welwyn Hatfield (Electoral Changes) Order 2016, held by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

(2) Where the boundary of a ward or parish ward is shown on the map as running along a road, railway line, footway, watercourse or similar geographical feature, it is to be treated as running along the centre line of the feature.

Wards of the District of Welwyn Hatfield and number of councillors

3.—(1) The existing wards of the district of Welwyn Hatfield are abolished.

(2) The district of Welwyn Hatfield is divided into the 16 wards in the following list—

Brookmans Park & Little Heath

Haldens

Handside

Hatfield Central

Hatfield East

Hatfield South West

Hatfield Villages

Hollybush

Howlands

Northaw & Cuffley

Panshanger

Peartree

Sherrards

Welham Green & Hatfield South

Welwyn East

Welwyn West

(3) Each ward comprises the area designated on the map by reference to the name of the ward.

(4) Three councillors are to be elected for each ward.

Elections of the council of the district of Welwyn Hatfield

4.—(1) Elections of all councillors of each ward of the district of Welwyn Hatfield are to be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2016.

(2) The councillors holding office for any ward abolished by article 3(1) immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2016 are to retire on that fourth day and the newly elected councillors are to come into office on that fourth day.

(3) Of the councillors elected for a ward in 2016, one shall retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2018, one on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2019 and one on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2020.

(4) Of the councillors elected in 2016, subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)—

(a) the first to retire is to be the councillor elected by the smallest number of votes; and

(b) the second to retire is to be the councillor elected by the next smallest number of votes.