

East Hertfordshire District Council

Personal Details:

Name: John Wyllie

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Organisation Name: Local Councillor

Comment text:

My name is Cllr John Wyllie. I am the Leader of Bishop's Stortford Town Council, and leader of the majority Conservative Group on the council. I am a former Mayor of Bishop's Stortford and have been a Town Councillor for Bishop's Stortford South Ward since 1999 and a District Councillor for the same ward since 2011. Between 2017 and 2021 I was a County Councillor for Bishop's Stortford East Ward (covering the current district council wards of All Saints and Meads). I write in support of the East Herts Conservative Group submission in this boundary review. I feel particularly strongly that three elements of this submission will underpin effective local government and public understanding of local ward boundaries. First, I support 14 district councillors representing Bishop's Stortford and Thorley Parishes. Second, As a district council member for Bishop's Stortford South Ward I currently represent part of Thorley parish. At present, the bulk of Thorley parish (Thorley Urban Parish ward) is within Bishop's Stortford South – an area which is projected to have 938 electors by 2027. However, there is a smaller portion of Thorley Parish called Thorley Rural Parish ward which is in Much Hadham District Council Ward. By 2027 it is forecast to have just 52 electors. It is not in the interests of effective local government to split such a small parish, and especially not into such unequal areas. I therefore suggest that the whole of Thorley Parish becomes part of the successor to the current Bishop's Stortford South Ward. Third, I believe that the electoral arrangements in the east of Bishop's Stortford are currently far adequate. The population projections are such that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) could treat the east and the west of the town separately. The town east of the River Stort is nearly exactly on quota for four councillors. Under the current warding arrangements which cross the boundary provided by the River, Meads Ward is split in two by the town's main parkland. As the County Councillor for the area, I found that the communities within the BSM1 and BSM2 polling districts were completely separate. They look towards different local community and residents organisations, road transport links and primary schools. Regards John

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded