

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 to 8 September 2022

Slough Borough Council

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Comment text:

For democratic ease, it would be highly beneficial if the ward boundaries being proposed could align with the proposals for the Slough Parliamentary Constituency boundary being proposed by the Boundary Commission for England. While I can see that the boundaries do largely overlap, at the moment, the current proposals unhelpfully split the Langley Marish ward over two proposed parliamentary constituencies. It would be of benefit to residents in a ward, if all residents had the same Member of Parliament. It would also be of benefit to MPs to have as much overlap with a constituency boundary and wards as possible. I would therefore ask that the Commission give consideration to altering the boundary of the Langley Marish ward so that it matches where the proposed boundary for the parliamentary constituencies are. This could either be by: 1) enlarging the proposed Upton ward and/or Langley St Mary's ward to cover the sections of Langley Marish which are in the proposed Slough Constituency, or; 2) enlarging the proposed Langley Foxborough ward to cover the sections of Langley Marish which are in the proposed Windsor Constituency, and if needed, shift the boundaries of Colnbrook & Poyle to equalise population, or; 3) re-evaluate all ward boundaries in the east of Slough in order that they match the proposed constituency boundary, and are of approximate equal size. I am concerned that a failure to align the ward and parliamentary boundaries will create frustration and confusion with residents as to their representatives, and double the workload for local councillors engaging with not one, but two MPs on ward issues. It is appreciated that the proposed ward boundaries have been drawn with consideration of each ward having roughly the same number of voters. I believe this is still feasible whilst maintaining alignment with the constituency boundaries, and on balance it is my firm view that it is more important in this instance to get alignment with the constituency boundaries than to get perfect equality in voter numbers, which are inherently changeable. I have no concerns that any change suggested above would have any adverse effect on community interests or identities. These proposed changes obviously align with the Boundary Commission for England's proposed parliamentary constituency boundaries, and their requirements are similar in terms of producing clear and identifiable boundaries. By aligning the electoral boundaries between ward and parliamentary constituency, this promotes clarity for voters and busy councillors, and ensures both effective and convenient local government and parliamentary representation. As it stands the current proposals would mean that ward-wide issues affecting the Langley Marish ward that require the support of the local MP would require councillors to raise the issues with multiple MPs. This could potentially lead to unnecessary duplication of efforts and confusion over parliamentary responsibilities, because, as you will know, MPs are strictly prohibited by the rules of the House of Commons from interfering in matters in another MP's constituency.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded