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From: Helena Morgan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 04 May 2022 13:36
To: reviews
Subject: Local Government Boundary Review
Attachments: LGBR CLP.docx

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of the Telford Constituency Labour Party to provide collective feedback on the current boundary proposals.
Please see attached the document which provides commentary on each Ward proposal.

Yours Sincerely,
Helena Morgan
Secretary - Telford Constituency Labour Party

To: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

I am writing on behalf of Telford Constituency Labour Party regarding the Local Government Boundary Review. I would like to submit our collective thoughts on the review. Please see below for comments on each ward proposal.

Telford & Wrekin Local Government Boundary Review

Telford Labour Party was formed in 1996 on the new Telford Parliamentary Boundary creating the new Telford seat.

The Constituency Labour Party has been established since that time and has worked hard across all wards to support good community councillors and recognise and keep community identity. Many areas of Telford continue to look to their local centres as their historic homes like Madeley, Oakengates and Dawley.

Our comments are in relation to all wards that sit within the Telford Constituency only and relate to the commissions draft recommendations.

Ironbridge

Support the recommendations although some of the old ward is moved out at the northern edge to Woodside, this makes good electoral equality and the area moved does see itself as more Woodside than Ironbridge

Woodside

Support the recommendations as makes good electoral equality and a far better boundary for the ward. The numbers of electors though being used may be under represented. On new town estates there are issues of voter registration being lower in these wards.

Madeley / Sutton Hill Wards

We don't support these proposals as the current three member ward gives a strong voice to one of the most deprived communities in our area. The residents of Sutton Hill look towards Madeley for their shopping and medical needs and this community identity as a whole ward is needed to be retained. The view of residents when the current ward was created is that there is overwhelming support for larger representation and having a shared voice for their centre of need. We would add that this ward may also lack numbers as it contains a new town estate, some people will not be registered due to the nature of the area and the increase of HMOs, We believe there is an increasing problem of under registration in our new town estates.

Brookside

We recognise the need to reduce a councillor for this area due to numbers although as previously mentioned as a new town estate these are prone to lower voter registration and an increase in HMO's. It is also sad to see that this ward, which is in the top 10% of deprived wards in UK, lose representation. We do not support the

draft proposals as they move the eastern area, Lake End Drive etc, out of the ward into The Nedge. Having recently campaigned there in a by-election residents see themselves as Brookside. Telford & Wrekin Council's original proposals are far better on community identity.

The Nedge

We do not support with the inclusion of Lake End Drive etc, as mentioned above.

Dawley & Aqueduct

The Dawley & Aqueduct ward works well, except for the inclusion of Horsehay. Although making good electoral equality, a community is split in these proposals and so we do not support them. We recommend to you that Horsehay is included in the Horsehay & Lightmoor Ward. Although giving bad electoral equality it creates better community identity.

Horsehay & Lightmoor

As the name suggests we support the majority of the commission's proposals but do not support the splitting of Horsehay into Dawley & Aqueduct ward as the residents of Horsehay do not see themselves as Dawley and although it would create electoral inequality the community identity is retained.

Lawley

We support the commissions boundary proposals for Lawley, however we do question the numbers put forward by the commission for this area , we have always maintained that Lawley needs better representation and identity which the last review failed to recognise. We understand that the borough Council are looking to move the Horsehay part from Dawley & Aqueduct into this ward and although that would be an acceptable alternative to it being in Dawley, as it has no links or identity with Dawley, we would maintain our comments as the favoured position.

Greater Dawley & Dawley Bank

We support the commission's proposals for this ward but believe it should retain its current named identity as Malinslee & Dawley Bank. The ward only takes in a small portion of Dawley but all of Malinslee.

Overdale & The Rock

Supportive of these proposals for this ward, good community identity and good electoral equality.

Ketley & Ketley Bank

We do not support your proposals. Ketley has no links with Ketley Bank except for the word Ketley. The people of Ketley look towards Wellington/ Hadley and the people of Ketley Bank look towards Oakengates and we support the original proposals for this area made by Telford & Wrekin Council. A one member Ketley ward and a three member Oakengates and Ketley Bank ward. The residents of Ketley Bank use the local shopping facilities, Post Office and schools in Oakengates,

their connections have been established there for generations. Ketley residents have separate schools and look to the Wrekin Retail park or Wellington for their shopping activity.

Oakengates

We do not support your proposal. A Borough Town needs a strong voice and should have more representation like other Borough Towns. The Borough Councils original proposals keep a three member Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward, giving good electoral equality and good community identity and a strong voice. The Trench Lock area sits within the Telford Parliamentary Boundary and has strong links to Oakengates and should be retained in this ward and not moved out of it.

Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

We are not supportive of your draft recommendations. The current ward has good community identity and is already well within good electoral equality, we believe the current ward does not need to be changed.

Priorslee

The ward has a big electoral imbalance due to growth and we can see the why you have put forward these proposals. Priorslee Church being in the ward makes a lot of sense however parts of Snedshill do look towards St Georges and not Priorslee. We understand that electoral equality needs to be maintained, however we feel that it is hard to move areas elsewhere from the current ward. The areas moving into the St Georges ward do not have that community identity or connection that you are looking for. We remain concerned about the issues it creates in St Georges. It would make more sense to keep Snedshill in St Georges.

St Georges

As stated above we feel some of the areas pushed into this ward have no connection with a strong and well recognised community in St Georges and although this is well within tolerances it creates some electoral unbalance. The parts moving into the ward from Priorslee see Redhill and Priorslee more for their schooling and Donnington/ ASDA for shopping and have no real connection to St Georges. A strong argument can be put forward for the Limekiln Bank area being in St Georges as they have an established link. The more recent new build areas sit better with Priorslee but of course create electoral imbalance. We feel the parts moved into this ward are only done so for electoral equality for Priorslee, by leaving the Cloisters area in Priorslee and keeping the Snedshill area in St Georges, creates better community identity and should be within tolerances of electoral equality.

The parish warding arrangements for the above ward of St Georges East increases quite significantly on the commission's proposals and the above suggestions keeps better electoral equality, if the commission continue with their proposals then Priorslee should lose a Councillor and St Georges East gain a seat in accordance with the movement of those residents from the Priorslee ward to St Georges East.

Yours Sincerely

Helena Morgan

CLP Secretary – Telford Constituency Labour Party