

Bolton Borough Council

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Horwich and Blackrod should be served by additional councillors due to amount of approved and planned future developments. At least 2000 houses are currently earmarked for Horwich, including 1700+ on the Horwich Loco Works, in addition to huge amounts of developments in recent years. Horwich should have up to 6 Councillors whilst Blackrod should have 3 of its own, it should not have to share a ward with the south of Horwich as currently happens. An increase of 3 councillors would allow for this, however, as the EC is minded not to increase the council size, there are other remedies. Any ward, like neighbouring Chorley Borough, should be named after its constituent TOWNS, namely Bolton County Borough, Farnworth Municipal Borough, and Horwich, Blackrod, Kearsley, Westhoughton, Little Lever and Turton Urban District Councils, rather than areas. There are 8 towns and districts in the borough despite the borough's confusing name, named after only its largest town, and the other 7 areas have distinct unique identities. A more geographically correct/neutral borough name, combined with wards which accurately describe and represent the towns which make up the borough should be implemented. For example, Harper Green ward should be abolished and split between Bolton and Farnworth. It is made up of Great Lever (an area of the town of Bolton) and Farnworth (a town in its own right). If the EC is minded to stay with 60 Councillors, then giving a Farnworth West ward some councillors and a Bolton South East ward the remainder would help. Different towns should not be included in each others' wards, for example parts of Kearsley and Farnworth should be represented by their own towns/wards and NOT* mixed. To aid this, and respect the local identities, it may be beneficial to have a different amount of councillors per ward, for example, whilst a Bolton (eg Bolton north/south/east/west) may have 20-25 Councillors, Horwich, Farnworth and Westhoughton may have around 6 each, with the likes of Little Lever having much less. This would enable the borough's distinct towns to be recognised, rather than treated as merely suburbs of Bolton, like for example Halliwell, which does not have the status of a town like the 8 former Urban Districts. An alternative would also be more wards but with fewer councillors in each to keep the total at 60 and elect in halves every 2 years or all outs every 4 years. The key point is that local identities are respected in each of the 8 towns and the wards adequately represent the 8 towns they cover, currently, the 20 wards across 8 towns don't entirely do that. Residents need to feel a connection to any future ward they fall in, and the building blocks of the borough is the 8 independent towns and districts which make up the borough. I would reconfirm that any ward which includes any part of the town of Horwich, should include the name Horwich. In addition, any split between a Horwich North and Horwich South ward should be logical. Bridge Ward at Horwich Town Council stretches a very long way, and the boundary for Horwich North East and Horwich & Blackrod makes little sense in the Fox Street area, wards should be designed which are more representative and geographically logical.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded