

Stratford-upon-Avon Liberal Democrats

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18th June 2021

To The Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Stratford On Avon District Ward Boundary Consultation

Please find attached a consultation response to the Commission's review of the ward boundaries of Stratford District, from the Stratford District Council Liberal Democrat group.

There is widespread agreement that the previous reduction in the number of councillors from 53 to 36 has presented problems, both in terms of workload for councillors and the size of the area they are required to represent. We therefore support the proposed increase in numbers to 41. This will also reflect the significant level of housing development that has taken place in recent years and which is expected to continue.

In recent years the district council has moved to single member wards from a previous mixture of one, two and three member wards. We believe that this has the advantage of keeping the number of residents represented by each councillor at a manageable level. Based on 41 councillors and the expected number of residents this level is around 2,800 per ward.

In making suggestions on ward boundaries we have attempted to keep each ward as close to this figure as possible, whilst also following the principle of maintaining community integrity. Thus wherever possible parish boundaries have been kept intact and not split between wards and parishes that exceed 2,800 residents have been subdivided into wards without incorporating other smaller parishes. We also believe that this approach meets the Commission's aim of wards that reflect the interests and identities of local communities and enable effective local government.

We would be happy to respond to any queries that you may have on this submission,

Toby Lee,

On behalf of Stratford District Council Liberal Democrat Group