

Northumberland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

see attachment

Attached Documents:

- Northumberland.pdf

Dear Sir

Re Hepscott boundary change.

I was surprised to hear that it is proposed to incorporate Hepscott into Choppington for council purposes.

This seems a very bizarre decision as Hepscott has no links at all with Choppington and so many links with Morpeth. In fact I have probably only been to Choppington a handful of times as it has no facilities compared to those of Morpeth.

I am concerned that this measure would mean children from Hepscott being no longer in the catchment area for Morpeth schools and have local parents been warned about this possibility?

Based on what appears to be one of the commissions key decision criteria, “making sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that electoral division arrangements help the council work effectively”. It is more logical that Hepscott is incorporated into Morpeth. It is not logical to incorporate Hepscott into Choppington.

Hepscott community ties to Morpeth are very real and form one of the key tenets of the Hepscott community identity, with a very large proportion of its residents having devoted many years to Morpeth/Hepscott community facilities and activities. Therefore, it is obvious to local residents of Morpeth/Hepscott, that these communities should be part of the same division.

The geographical position and well-developed transport links between Morpeth and Hepscott have been central to the local people sharing facilities, such as parks, leisure centres, schools, churches, community centres and shopping areas.

Hepscott and Morpeth residents clearly share common neighbour issues which are being dealt with as common community priorities, for example the Morpeth feeder road traffic issues, river Wansbeck flood defences and land drainage issues.

All Hepscott residents should be properly informed before A change of this magnitude is considered and a local referendum arranged.

[REDACTED]

