

South Tyneside

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

After reviewing the proposed boundary review, along with the supporting evidence, I do have some comments - some for and some not.

Firstly, I would embrace political balance and I see the shift as being one of benefit in this effort. The same can be said for that of political equality. I also recognise that this reform would bolster political competition and make the overall election process fairer.

With all that being said, I do have some concerns around political manipulation. I would both hope and expect that proposed ward boundaries where there is a more political split will not be influenced by the leading political party within the council so as to favour their party over another, especially towards any individual who may have a partisan interest. Might I request that this be monitored very closely and be under constant review. I might come across sceptical, but I do find it curious and I will be monitoring the proposals closely given the drastic political shift within South Tyneside, particularly over the last two years.

I would also expect there to be a report published as to how the proposed boundary reforms will impact each and every ward and have this data available to the public so that they understand how this change will effect them and their immediate area, in particular, how a boundary change will affect poverty levels, crime, antisocial behaviour and overall wellbeing of residents.

I would also argue that this is simply not the right time to conduct such a radical change within our electoral system. Such a change is likely to be very costly, and during a time where some costs are at an all time high, with more and more families struggling financially, I am curious to understand exactly how much this project is costing the taxpayer and I do feel that any such project which could be deemed frivolous, distasteful

or even reckless at this current time.

I would also like to call into question the forecasted population figures stated in the report. These presumptions are based on all projects being passed at planning committee and in an area where the overall population has declined over the past several decades. I do call for these facts to be factored into the report and not simply base predictions on a 'best case scenario' basis.

Finally, I would like to thank the commission for the opportunity given to me as a resident to share my views and I sincerely hope that similar opportunities for engagement be offered in the future.

Attached Documents:

None attached