

Sunderland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Hendon area

I write in my capacity as a local elected member to object to the splitting of the current Hendon Ward into two new wards - namely Central and Grangetown.

I strongly disagree with the boundaries of the proposed Central Ward. Splitting the community of Hendon into two separate wards via a boundary at Vilette Road would cause significant detrimental impact to one of the most deprived areas of Sunderland.

I believe that it would significantly harm the administration of services to have Hendon divided into two electoral areas. For generations Hendon as a community has been included in its own ward. Long standing and well-established community organisations have operated for many years within one ward and now face the prospect of being split down the middle.

Additionally, it would also cause confusion with the residents who currently find themselves residing in a ward that is familiar and well known and easily understood.

On the proposed boundaries residents of Hendon could depending on what side of Vilette Road they live find themselves in an electoral ward that stretches as far West as the Queen Alexandra Bridge and as far south as Hollycarside. I argue that these proposed boundaries fundamentally go against the commissions criteria of the new electoral arrangements' recommendations reflect community identity.

Therefore, I propose the following amendment to the commission's proposal for Central Ward. That the revised Central Ward is comprised of the following existing polling districts:

F01 (Hendon) – 2197; J01 (Millfield) – 1414; J02 (Millfield) – 1772; J04 (Millfield) – 2224; J05 (Millfield) – 572

That would give you a total (2029) electorate in the Central Ward of 8179 electors.

Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for Central Ward of 2726 – which would reduce the variance from +5% to -8%

I recognise the commission's rationale in proposing a Grangetown Ward but this should not be to the detriment of existing communities such as Hendon.

You can meet the commissions intention of giving greater clarity to the residents of Grangetown as well as protecting the interests of the residents of Hendon by amending the proposed Grangetown ward into a new ward I have called Hendon and Grangetown.

By combining the following existing polling districts you can create a new ward that meets the commissions criteria:

F02 (Hendon) – 1978; F03 (Hendon) – 1229; F04 (Hendon) – 1679; F05 (Hendon) – 1525; M01 (Ryhope) – 1554; a section of P04 (St Michael's) – 79 and a section of P05 (St Michael's) – 668

Namely the 79 electors in Westheath Avenue that is currently in P04 (St Michael's) and the 668 electors in P05 (St Michael's) in Hardgate Road, Sea View Road, The Sycamores, Victoria Avenue, Victoria Avenue West, Woodstock Avenue, Queen Alexandra Road, Leechmere Road, Wroxham Court, Westheath Avenue and Warnham Road & Weldon Avenue.

That gives you a total electorate in the new Hendon and Grangetown Ward of 8712 (2029) electors. Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for of 2904 – which would give a variance of -2%

The new proposed Hendon and Grangetown Ward better reflects community identity by combining the communities of Hendon and Grangetown into one single ward. Hendon and Grangetown have well established links and many shared services such as transport links, community groups and voluntary associations. Educational links with both areas primary schools feeding into Southmoor Academy.

I strongly encourage the commission to adopt this proposal as I believe it better reflects the existing communities and would mean services provided by the City Council and other agencies particular the voluntary and community sector are better applied ensuring no community is negatively impacted by the changes.

Attached Documents:

None attached