

Sunderland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Hello,

I write in response to the consultation on warding arrangements in Sunderland. I am a current city councillor for the Millfield Ward. Millfield Ward covers communities in Millfield, the City centre, parts of Thornhill, and parts of Pallion.

I want to make the following comments about the Commission's proposals in each of the following areas:

Proposed Central Ward:

I support the Commission's proposed boundaries which I feel are identifiable and understandable. The Metro line, Stockton Road/Ryhope Road (a main route in and out of the city centre) and Villette Road (a natural dividing line between the Hendon and Grangetown areas) are all obvious and easy to identify for residents.

I agree with the principle of uniting the city centre in one ward, with the surrounding communities in Deptford, Hendon and the East End. These areas share similar types of terraced houses, and issues in terms of private rented housing, street cleaning, fly-tipping in back lanes etc. that would be best served by a single set of ward councillors.

As a resident of the Hendon/Grangetown/Villette Rd area for some years, I recognise there is difficulty in defining a boundary between these areas. That said, I believe Villette Road is the most viable option; it provides a consistent boundary together with The Cedars/Ashbrooke Range to

make a clear boundary for the proposed Grangetown Ward. Moving the boundary south would create an unhelpful boundary for residents. It would separate the area south of the railway line that includes Canon Cockin, St Leonard, Hastings and Cairo Streets: very recognised Hendon streets. Gray Rd, or Mowbray Road are not main thoroughfares, including them would lead to confusion by splitting a long-standing community who use Hendon services, from Hendon.

I don't believe the ward name 'Central' is helpful for residents across Sunderland. This ward is not in the Centre of Sunderland. There is a Washington Central ward, and a Sunderland Central constituency would create confusion. I recommend the ward be named after identifiable places at either side of the ward, and as such propose a name of 'Deptford and Hendon Ward'.

Proposed Pallion Ward:

I broadly agree with the Commission's proposals for the Pallion Ward.

I believe that Chester Road running from The Royalty up to Bishopwearmouth Cemetery is an identifiable and locally recognised boundary between the Millfield and Barnes areas as it is today, the Commission is right to use this as a ward boundary. The use of the Metro line as an eastern boundary is also easy to understand for residents.

All parts of the ward share facilities, for example, Hylton Road and St Luke's Terrace shopping areas, community centres such as the Deptford & Millfield Community Association, St Luke's Neighbourhood Centre, and Lambton Street Youth Centre. There are good bus links to all parts of the ward, as well as access to the Metro and Pallion and Millfield stations.

However, a small section of High Barnes around Nookside, North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue that is north of Chester Road but south of Hylton Lane Estate has more affinity with Barnes than either Pallion or Ford Estate. It should be included in the Barnes and Thornhill Ward. These streets are of the same type of housing as the rest of High Barnes, and share community facilities such as the Broadway Community Centre, and the shops on Wavendon Crescent.

In addition, I recommend the Hylton Lane Estate on both sides of Holborn Road be united into the proposed Pennywell Ward, and that all streets in Ford Estate either side of Front Road should be united in the Pallion Ward. This change makes it easier for residents to identify which ward they live in, allowing for more efficient and effective local government by ensuring whole estates are represented by one set of councillors.

If all of Ford Estate is united in this ward then I'd support naming it to 'Pallion and Ford Ward'.

Proposed Barnes and Thornhill Ward:

I agree with the principle of uniting the neighbouring Barnes and Thornhill areas in one ward. They share the same housing type and tenure, and

both use the same community facilities such as schools like Thornhill Academy and Richard Avenue Primary School, Burn Park, Barnes Park and the University Metro Station.

I believe that the Commission's proposals should transfer the streets that are naturally part of Ashbrooke along Tunstall Road and Queen Alexandra Road to the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward. This would keep these parts of Ashbrooke together in one ward. These streets share more in common with other parts of Ashbrooke around Backhouse Park and Ashbrooke Cricket Club rather than with Barnes or Thornhill which are separated by land around Thornhill and St Mary's schools.

Summary of comments

In summary, I recommend the Commission to adopt the proposed ward arrangements in these areas, subject to the changes I've outlined above, in order to create a set of balanced wards that reflect locally understood communities, leading to better local government.

I look forward to a positive outcome for residents.

Attached Documents:

None attached