

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

See attached

Attached Documents:

- boundary-submission-final.docx

1 Submission

A submission has been drawn up, and submitted, for a two-member division in Norton and Malton.

I **object** to a two member division as the Cllr for the Malton Division. I have concerns over the split in the area of Malton and Norton.

North Yorkshire Council voted in 2024 with a majority for a one-member Division.

We should honour this.

I hope the boundary commission are able to accept NYC request of single divisions and 89 Cllrs

I feel the single division is still a good balanced way for Cllrs to represent their electorate, one voice one contact.

The residents of Malton think this boundary change will change their postcode, where they live their address and they are not happy they have not had good clear detailed information.

However,

I think the lines drawn to split Norton and Malton are not suitable, leave a lot of questions to be answered and are slightly bonkers. The lines do not seem to have had any local discussion.

Improvements needs to be considered in this part of the s NYKs Council submission.

Electoral equality, will be still kept if we keep the single member division.

My submission to you is keep the single division numbers, let's is not challenging this

In the guidance document, it states the LGBCE can move away from the single division however, it could be argued if the changes put forward are for political reasons this should be dismissed.

The Executive also voted unanimously in December 2024 including Cllr Duncan for the North Yorkshire proposed plan to go through as drafted. If any Cllr was unhappy on the executive this should have been voted against.

I do think Malton and Norton Town councils have been slightly taken advantage of with this consultation, since the Executive made this unanimous decision, residents seem to have been sold the notion that Malton and Norton are going to merger, which is not the case.

Malton and Norton Town Cllrs did not have the full 12 members at either of their meetings when this was discussed and voted upon. Not all voted for some Cllrs did not attend and some abstained

This is not resounding support for changes to the two-member division.

As I understand it, the boundary changes are the only for equal number of elected members, it is only a division of a councillor that is being debated regarding the complete boundary review residents have been told it is?

2 Summary

How can a two-member division be managed effectively by possibly two very different political views?

Who would be the spokesperson? Who actually represents the division electorate?

This must be taken in to account we need one voice one division member.

Therefore, I argue that not all three statutory criteria have been fully justified and this submission is for political reasons and looking only how best someone's chance of being elected is the driver.

As previously, stated The Town Councils and the public have been led to think the boundaries are changing where they live, and possibly not fully understood this is for the sole purpose of Cllrs looking after a division, which in turn is a number of people equally throughout North Yorkshire.

3 Electoral equality

I feel that the numbers in the suggested proposal put forward by North Yorkshire fully comply with the criteria the range for 6.401 and 5.237 will fully comply with the criteria.

I argue that a one-member division will suit the electorate. My only concerns as to where the line has been drawn in the area of Norton and Malton could be better divided.

Norton is going to have over 600 house built shortly and a two-member division would not give the best equality of vote in a two-member division

One member would serve this population better.

Estimates by North Yorkshire council have been provided re housing, and anyone can argue with the figures to suit the argument, it is a very fact that Norton will have an increase in housing. However, this is within tolerance of the bid and should be taken seriously in the proposed bid from North Yorkshire.

The reason why the joint submission for the two member division bid is flawed, they cannot make the numbers fit so they have created their own graph.

Single member

I do understand why the member for Norton Division is unhappy about the split. In addition, Norton Town Council I feel do not fully understand it will make no change what so ever to their functions. They, feel they are losing residents as far as I see, and this is truly not the case.

This process has been badly managed and the facts not quickly and concisely been told that the North Yorkshire Councils elected members electoral numbers. It only affects the elected councils divisions elected Cllrs to manage their residents' concerns everything else stays the same.

This will not affect the electorate only the elected member's workload.

4 Community Identity

Malton and Norton are two towns but are increasingly working together on many projects

If we did follow the one member division, it would not have any influence on people's personal lives. Both towns have many ties. In addition, working together is desirable now and in the future.

There is strong individual identity but a one-member division would have no impact at all on the identity, they work well as neighbours share issues, resources, and facilities the hospital schools as they do now.

The proposed joint 2-member division bid actually confirms this

5 Divisions in the Town

The River Derwent is the natural horizontal division line which runs through both towns for example when we flood we flood together and of course, this is perfectly normal, we all strive for and need to work together for the better good as much as possible.

No Cllr has ever been elected to work on both sides of the river but this could be a new initiative and bring the towns closer together thus keeping their identity

The population are led to believe these new boundaries are for their addresses to change and they will not live in Norton or Malton this is not the case but has been instilled by the two member joint bid, which has been supplied.

6 Links between the towns

My proposal is that the towns do now have their own distinctiveness.

However, we do work a lot together.

Residents share services, so a Cllr who has both the interests of Norton and Malton could be seen as a good way to move forward.

Nothing would change in the local area if we adhere to the proposals of the one member division.

A joint neighbourhood plan was written, and agreed between both Town Councils. I helped write it.

[REDACTED]. The plan referenced housing, transport, and infrastructure, and economy, tourism retail, agreed by all.

Both councils worked effectively together.

North Yorkshire Council works with Norton and Malton with regards to flooding and have managed major incidents of flooding recently.

Single member division

There would be no real on the ground changes to a single member division.

Merging is only for the sole purpose of a Cllrs workload, and to get the numbers equal.

I do feel the divide could be re looked at with local Members input, to provide a better line to be horizontal and follow the river and not vertical as is set out now.

There must be a much better logical way to do this. Nevertheless, I still think a single member division would serve the electorate better

Arguments can be made for and against but I do not think the argument should be about what is in the best interest of a political party.

I hope you will consider my evidence supplied and consider looking at the internal division line re numbers of Norton and Malton and continue with a single ward Divisions.

