

Cheshire East

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Related subject: Boundary changes for Congleton Constituency, comprising of Alsager, Brereton Rural, Congleton, Dane Valley, Sandbach and Odd Rode.

see attached file

Attached Documents:

- this-is-the-revised-odd-rode-boundaries-at-december-2024---2.docx



Chairman: Patrick Redstone

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 8th December 2024

CHESHIRE EAST COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Initial proposals for Congleton Constituency, comprising of Alsager, Brereton Rural, Congleton, Dane Valley, Sandbach and Odd Rode.

INTRODUCTION

In reaching our conclusions, we have followed the Commission for England guidance, which was to ensure community governance arrangements continued to reflect local identities and interests, as well as to facilitate convenient and effective local government.

Congleton Conservative Association (CCCA) supports Cheshire East Council's undertaking of the Community Governance review of Congleton Constituency; which comprises Alsager, Brereton, Congleton, Dane Valley, Sandbach and Odd Rode, and wish to be actively involved in the process to shape the changes which affect the governance arrangements of these areas.

We support the objective of creating equal wards in terms of electoral equality (the number of residents per councillor). We want to see wards with strong cohesive boundaries, whether this is for one, two or three-councillors. We may seek further consultation should there be substantial increases in house building causing unacceptable local distortions.

PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSALS

The boundary proposals submitted to the Electoral Commission by Alsager Parish Council have been accepted. We accept these proposals as well.

PROPOSAL ONE: ALSAGER, HASLINGTON AND WESTON

We do not wish to comment on the proposals made regarding Haslington and Weston ward, as these are outside our constituency, however, we support Cheshire East's proposal regarding retaining a single three-councillor ward for Alsager.

We believe these proposals reflect the community and promote effective and convenient local government, as well as ensuring good levels of electoral equality by 2030.

PROPOSAL TWO: SANDBACH

Sandbach East & Central

Regarding the proposals for Sandbach, we agree with Sandbach Town Council (STC) that merging the existing single-member Sandbach Town, and Sandbach Heath and East wards into a two-councillor Sandbach East and Central ward, with minor modifications to the existing arrangements around Sandbach School. We support the improvement in electoral equality which this proposal achieves, and we also agree that this will reflect community identities and interests.

We do not support the Liberal Democrats proposal to retain the existing arrangements for this area with two single-councillor wards named Sandbach Town and Sandbach East.

PROPOSAL THREE: BRERETON

Dane Valley

We accept and support the proposals received from Cheshire East for a two-councillor Dane Valley ward to match the existing arrangements. We agree this proposed ward has good electoral equality as the forecast electoral variance is 3%.

On balance, we think the Dane Valley ward boundary should not be changed. Such a change will create uncertainty because the proposed new boundaries have not yet been set for Holmes Chapel. This position can be reconsidered when the Boundary Commission conduct their next review.

Brereton and Odd Rode

We accept and support the Council proposal for a two-councillor Odd Rode ward and a single-councillor Brereton ward. We agree that the existing Brereton Rural ward does not pass the test on electoral variance and major changes to the single member ward are required to reduce the forecast of an 127% electoral variance. We do not support the Liberal Democrat solution for two reasons. Firstly, it is less effective at reducing the electoral variance and secondly, it would have unacceptable consequences for Congleton West ward. We therefore agree that the Council's proposals would provide for a better balance of our statutory criteria for this area of Cheshire East. This proposal also significantly reduces the scale of the ward geographically.

PROPOSAL FOUR: CONGLETON

Congleton East and Congleton West

We support Cheshire East Council's proposal for retaining two three-councillor wards of Congleton East and Congleton West. We believe that these proposals have strong community support and will promote effective and convenient local government. The alternative of three two-councillor wards will result in geographically two small wards and one exceptionally large ward. After careful consideration of how the contrasting proposals would impact effective and convenient local government, as well as communities, we have decided we agree with the Boundary Commissions and Cheshire East Council's decision to retain two three-councillor wards and so keeping the strong and locally identifiable boundary of the River Dane. The Bromley Farm Community Development Trust also suggested this. Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council also expressed support for the Council's proposed Congleton West ward which included part of Hulme Walfield Parish.