

Cheshire East

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my submission of comments on the Local Government Boundary Review for England - Cheshire East. Please acknowledge receipt of the attached letter.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

- commentsonlabcardproposals.docx



Review Officer (Cheshire East)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Dear Sir,

I am submitting the following comments as a response to the consultation on the proposals by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for new electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council up to 2030.

At paragraph 143 of its Report, the Commission states that its objectives are to propose a pattern of wards for Cheshire East which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

Comments on Overall Proposals – Electoral Equality

The overall proposals are that the total number of Councillors should remain at 82 and the total number of wards should remain at 50 with an increase in the average number of electors per Councillor from 3,838 to 4,114 to allow for the predicted increase in population up to 2030. By adjustments in proposed ward boundaries, the proposals lead to a more even distribution of representation with only two wards having a variance of more than 10% from the average of electors per Councillor and none with a variance of more than 20% from the average. These figures on electoral equality represent a significant improvement on the existing figures and demonstrate that the proposals meet the first of the three objectives.

Comments on Community Identity – Bollington, Rainow and Pott Shrigley

I should firstly state that I have lived in Bollington for 47 years and have been Chairman of the Steering Committees for the Bollington Parish Plan (2002), the update as the Bollington Town Plan (2008), the Bollington Neighbourhood Plan (made 2018) and the update to the Neighbourhood Plan (currently at Regulation 16 stage 2024). For all of these Plans there have been Questionnaires issued to the whole population within the Parish boundary and hence I have a very clear understanding of the views of the community on a wide range of local issues.

The population of Bollington in the 2021 census was 7,944, the population of Rainow was 1,240 and that of Pott Shrigley was 258. Clearly the population of Bollington justifies representation by two Councillors, with a margin to accept a higher population, whilst Rainow and Pott Shrigley need to be combined with a larger group to form a viable ward. Bollington is totally embedded in the Green Belt to separate it from Macclesfield to the south and Poynton and Stockport to the north. Bollington, Rainow and Pott Shrigley share a

common participation in the Peak District National Park – Rainow and Pott Shrigley straddle the Cheshire boundary of the Peak District, nestling in the foothills of the Pennines, whilst the Eastern Part of Bollington lies in the protected Peak Park Fringe area. All three areas are extremely popular with visitors for walking with beautiful countryside and magnificent scenic views. The River Dean flows through the valleys in Rainow and Bollington and the Lamaload Reservoir, which lies mainly within Rainow Parish boundary, supplies water to the communities in the area. Both Bollington and Rainow have a history of former mills and all three communities have a significant number of farms. The boundary between Bollington and Rainow passes through White Nancy, a Grade II listed conical structure at the top of Kerridge Hill which is the emblem of Bollington.

Bollington is identified as an Historic Town in Cheshire East Records and has a different character from its much larger neighbour to the southwest, Macclesfield. The Parish Boundary includes extensive rural areas outside the boundary of the settlement area. Bollington has its own thriving sports clubs and cultural activities and is often rival to Macclesfield in some of its activities. The people of Bollington certainly wish to retain their separate identity from Macclesfield and maintain physical separation by the Green Belt. In responses to the Questionnaire for the Update to the Neighbourhood Plan (2024), 97.3% of responders supported the overall Vision for Bollington as follows:

“Bollington will continue to be a picturesque Working Town with industrial heritage roots. It must capitalise on its gateway location to the Peak District to support a high quality, vibrant and inclusive community life. It must retain a level of infrastructure, services and facilities appropriate to the size and mix of its population.”

On the other hand, Tytherington and Hurdsfield are suburbs of Macclesfield with totally different characteristics from Bollington. One of the proposals by the Boundary Commission is that the southwestern boundary of the Bollington, Rainow and Pott Shrigley ward should be extended to include all of the houses on the Springwood Estate on the East side of Tytherington Lane. The main reason for this recommendation is the proposal to transfer the Bollinbrook community from Tytherington ward to the Broken Cross and Upton ward on the grounds of physical separation by the railway and River Bollin and create suitably sized wards. However, it does make considerable sense from the point of view of community identity and discharge of Council responsibilities to group all of the houses in the Springwood Estate on one side of Tytherington Lane in the same ward. I understand that residents living in this estate currently in the Bollington ward were consulted during the Governance Review and confirmed commitment to Bollington,

Conclusions

1. In my view the overall proposals by the Commission for Cheshire East Council to have 82 Councillors and 50 election wards are satisfactory to meet the objective of electoral equality.
2. I support the proposals for the definition of new boundaries for the Bollington, Rainow and Pott Shrigley ward, including the inclusion of all housing on the Springwood Estate east of Tytherington Lane within this ward.

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