

York

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Organisation Name: University of York Students Union (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: University of York Campus

I am writing to set out my view that the University and its surrounding student communities must be represented within a three-member ward, rather than a single-member or two-member ward covering both the University, the wider Heslington parish and areas with a high concentration of University of York students.

The University of York generates a high and distinctive volume of casework, driven by a large student population with specific needs and concerns. These include housing pressures, transport and safety and close engagement with the University itself. This workload is materially different in scale and nature from that of a typical residential ward.

Placing responsibility for both the University and the remainder of Heslington parish on a single councillor, or even two councillors would not constitute effective and

convenient local government. The cumulative workload arising from the University alone would significantly limit that councillor's capacity to give sufficient time and attention to parish council engagement and the concerns of permanent residents.

This would risk weakening representation for both communities.

For these reasons, I support the creation of a three-member ward containing:

? The University of York campus and immediate surrounding student areas to the north of the university, extending to the southern end of Tang Hall

? Heslington as the sole parished area within the ward

I would strongly caution against adding further parished areas such as Fulford or Osbaldwick into a University-focused ward. Doing so would require councillors to commit time to multiple parish councils, reducing their ability to respond effectively to the scale and immediacy of issues arising from the University and our student population. In my view, this would place unreasonable and competing demands on councillors and weaken overall representation.

I also support the ward extending into the southern part of Tang Hall, where a significant number of University of York students live. Students in this area share common housing, transport, and community issues with those living on campus, and it is important that they are represented within the same ward. Keeping these areas together would ensure councillors are dealing with coherent and consistent student-related issues, rather than splitting a single community of interest across multiple wards.

I also believe it is important that the ward name explicitly reflects the presence of the University of York. We would therefore strongly support the ward being titled

“University Ward” or otherwise including the word “University” in its name. This would accurately reflect the primary community of interest within the ward, provide clarity for students and help ensure that the ward’s distinctive character and representation needs are clearly recognised. A ward name that acknowledges the University would

also aid engagement, making it easier for students (many of whom are new to local government) to understand who represents them and how to access support.

In summary, a three-member ward centred on the University of York, with Heslington as the only parished area and extending into southern Tang Hall, would best reflect community identity, balance councillor workload, and deliver effective and convenient local government for students and residents alike.

Attached Documents:

None attached