

Keal, Simon

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 12 March 2013 16:29
To: Keal, Simon
Subject: FW: Lancaster Review

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From: John Mace [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** J.R. Mace
Sent: 12 March 2013 16:01
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Subject: Lancaster Review

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR LANCASTER [Submitted by Councillor J. R. Mace]

1 At the Lancaster City Council meeting on 2 March 2011, I proposed a friendly amendment to a resolution then being debated, as follows:-

“That, if and when any boundary changes within the District are considered as part of a review, the Boundary Commission be asked to consider introducing single-councillor wards for as many of the newly defined wards as practicable, in order to improve the accountability of individual councillors to their respective electorates.”

The substantive motion was defeated after further amendment, but I continue to hold the view I expressed then that single councillor wards have multiple advantages over multiple councillor wards in terms of democratic accountability, political representation, and the ease by which an elector can identify the councillor they should approach with regard to any issue affecting themselves or affecting their local community. A single councillor ward ensures a closer link between electorate and councillor - with consequent improvement in accountability of each councillor to the electorate at election time, and the potential for a more precise reflection of the electorate's political preferences in the representation of the Ward

Applying this principle to the draft proposals, I believe that combining Carnforth and Warton wards into a single ward would be a retrogressive development - and that the interests of the residents and separate communities of Warton and Carnforth would be better served by minor changes to ward boundaries to balance the numbers of electors per councillor, rather than by combining the two wards into a single three councillor ward.

In this respect, I support the representations made by Carnforth Town Council and by Warton Parish Council.

2 On the subject of Kellet ward, for which I am the current representative on Lancaster City Council, I have consulted with Parish Councils in the Ward - and can approve the Boundary Commission's draft proposal to include Gressingham Parish as an addition to the parishes currently within the ward.

J. R. Mace