

Subject: ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR CHESHIRE EAST

Date: Sunday 14 February 2010

From: [REDACTED]

To: reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk

Please find attached our comments on your draft recommendations.

I would be very grateful if you could acknowledge receipt by return email.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Mark Norman

(on behalf of Cheshire East Green Party)

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# Cheshire East Electoral Review: Division Boundaries

## Representation on Behalf of Cheshire East Green Party 14/02/10

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#### **1. Introduction**

We have considered the Electoral Commissions draft recommendations and have suggestions to make for changes to the proposed warding patterns in two areas of the Borough. Our proposals are in line with our preference for multi-member wards (2 or 3 councillors) in more densely-populated areas, with single-member wards in the rural areas.

#### **2. Poynton and surrounding area**

We propose the following wards for the Poynton area:

- Poynton Town (3 members), comprising the former Poynton West & Central MBC wards
- Lyme (1 member), comprising the former Poynton East MBC ward, along with the parishes of Adlington, Pott Shrigley, Lyme Handley & Kettleshulme

Poynton Town - 3 members		
PD	2008	2013
4JC1	1874	1860
4JC2	1971	1960
4JD1	1880	1870
4JG1	2753	2740
4JH1	1665	1660
Total	10143	10090
per councillor	3381	3363
variance	-118	-188

Lyme - 1 member			
PD	2008	2013	Parish
4JE1	1029	1020	Poynton East
4JF1	873	870	Poynton East
4FB6	89	90	Lyme Handley
4FD1	278	280	Kettleshulme
4FE2	210	210	Pott Shrigley
4JA1	516	510	Adlington
4JB1	419	420	Adlington
Total	3414	3400	
per councillor	3414	3400	
variance	-85	-151	

Average electorate per councillor:  
2008            3499  
2013            3551

The Boundary Committee's draft "New electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council November 2009" states (para 69, page 15):

“The evidence supplied by Poynton with Worth Town Council indicates that links are stronger between the west of the town and the parish of Adlington, which would tend to support Labour’s warding pattern for the area. For example, the train line between Adlington and Poynton runs from West Poynton.”

It could equally be stated that bus services – also the Middlewood Way and the Macclesfield canal - run between East Poynton and Adlington.

The point is that Adlington is a large, rural parish, comprising not just the community around the railway station and the Legh Arms, but reaching across to the Wood Lanes area and down to Whiteley Green. Pott Shrigley lies to the east and Higher Poynton to the north, with Lyme Handley only a short distance away.

The Electoral Commission’s proposal is likely to leave the population of the rural parishes feeling “swamped” in each of their respective wards by suburban Poynton. Our proposal creates a rural ward on the one hand (the area of Poynton included comprises largely the rural communities of Higher Poynton and Middlewood), with strong community of interest and a suburban ward consisting of most of Poynton on the other.

### **3. Wilmslow and surrounding area**

We support the Commission’s proposals for separate wards for Alderley Edge and Handforth as these are communities with distinct identities. However we feel that an alternative warding pattern for the rest of this area would better serve the needs of the local community. More specifically:

- We do not support the division of the south of Wilmslow between two wards. The areas either side of Knutsford Road are in many ways a single community, sharing schools, church and local shops so should form a single ward
- We support the inclusion of Chorley for the same reason as above.

Using the existing polling districts we believe the following would form a better warding pattern:

Division	Polling Districts	Electorate (2008 figures)	Seats	Variance
Handforth	8EF1, 8EG1, 8EH1, 8EJ1, 8EE1	6,785	2	-3
Wilmslow North	8EA1, 8EB1, 8EC1, 8FD1, 8ED1, 8EK1,	7133	2	+2
Wilmslow South	8FA1, 8FB1, 8FC1, 8FE1, 8FF1, 8FG1, 8FH1, 3DD1 8FJ1, 8FK1 8FK1	11213	3	+7
Alderley Edge	3DF1, 3DG1, 3DH1	3680	1	+5

Further comments on our proposal:

- The variance from the average for Wilmslow South could be reduced by redrawing the boundaries of some of the polling districts along its boundary with Wilmslow North.
- We recognise that the inclusion of Styal within Wilmslow South is not ideal but there is some historical precedence in that it was linked with part of this area in the Morley and Styal ward of Macclesfield Borough Council.

## **6. Contact Details**

Mark Norman,  
Elections Coordinator Cheshire East Green Party,

