
From: EP&N Conservatives [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 August 2009 13:45
To: Reviews@
Subject: Electoral Review - Cheshire West and Chester

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the Ellesmere Port & Neston Conservative Association with regards to the electoral review you are carrying out in Cheshire West & Chester.

Having seen the detailed proposals from Cheshire West & Chester Council our Association, which covers the Parliamentary Constituency of Ellesmere Port & Neston, I would like to make a few comments.

Firstly we are thoroughly supportive of the wish to maintain multi-member wards under the Council's proposals. All of our residents have always had two Councillors as a minimum, one Borough and one County Councillor. In fact only around 3000 or so of our 70000 electorate were used to having a single District Councillor (in the old Mickle Trafford and Burton & Ness Wards) and most had at least two District Councillors. Therefore the proposals to maintain multi-member wards will maintain a system of local representation that is understood, liked and advantageous.

We have a very diverse team of Councillors elected from our Constituency which works because they have colleagues within a team on whom they can rely when they are away on holiday, in work, or ill for example. Without multi-member Wards we believe we would lose all of our younger Councillors at the next election, certainly those who work, and as most of them are female this would have a disproportionate impact on the representation of women on the Council.

Secondly we should like to make some comments about the Warding proposals in particular. Our constituency has always been identifiably made up of two geographic areas which are a hangover from the pre-1974 Local Government reorganisation: Neston and District to the West, and Ellesmere Port in the East.

Neston & Parkgate Ward and Little Neston & Willaston Ward

These Wards essentially cover the old Neston Urban District Council area and have linked the two distinct areas, Urban and historic Neston and Parkgate are kept together in the first proposed Ward, and the suburban Village/rural nature of the rest of the old UDC is kept together in the Little Neston & Willaston Ward. The addition of the Parishes of Puddington, Shotwick and Woodbank make great sense as they work especially closely with each other and Puddington and Burton Village are almost inseparable. All of these areas look towards Neston for their major services yet share similar rural issues so it makes sense for them to be grouped together.

Ellesmere Port Area

We believe that the Wards in this area as proposed by the Council are generally self-explanatory and quite obviously serve identified communities of interest. Most of them

reflect pairings of the Wards from the old District Council which were well understood and provide effective representation within the larger-scale that Cheshire West & Chester will operate. There have been considerable improvements on these old boundaries however by utilising what we believe are more natural boundaries that had been used previously. For example, we believe that the Hooton to Ellesmere Port railway line and the A41 are strong, natural and obvious boundaries which in general should be used to demarcate Wards, especially between the proposed Wards of Rossmore & Netherpool, Ledsham & Manor and Rivacre Valley & Pooltown. The use of open spaces to demarcate the boundary between the last of these Wards and the proposed Sutton & Strawberry Fields Ward is also obvious, sensible and will be clearly understood, especially as it also keeps housing types and communities together rather than creating arbitrary mixes.

Elton & Whitby Ward

We would like to make particular mention of this proposed Ward as we know it is the one newly proposed Ward which has caused the most surprise. We support the proposal from the Council for two main reasons:

1] it keeps the easily identifiable community of Whitby together in one Ward for the first time. We have seen other options which either retain the current division of Whitby between 2 Wards or indeed makes it worse. We believe this is an excellent opportunity for the whole of Whitby to be represented by the same team of Councillors who will be able to make much more considered choices for the future of this community.

2] for our Constituency we see Elton and Whitby as being places that are certainly separate but not dissimilar in nature, and as we wholeheartedly support multi-member Wards we believe that this is the most sensible link Elton could create with another area. They share the same MP, many Elton (and associated Parishes) students come to one of the two secondary schools in Whitby Ward and it is one area where people can also do their shopping with the newly enlarged Morrison's supermarket.

We do however believe that as Whitby has the larger population of the two areas the Ward should be re-named "Whitby & Elton" to reflect this.

Many thanks for your time and we hope you will take our considered views into account when making your draft recommendations.

Yours faithfully

Andrew W. Merrill JP

Chairman

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