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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2021 22:09  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Bolton Rewarding - Draft Consultation - Response

**Categories:** [REDACTED] Submissions

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write with respect to your current consultation on new electoral arrangements for Bolton council.

I am a resident of Little Lever and have lived there for over seven years; previously I lived off Chorley New Road in the present Smithills ward. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and as such I regularly travel all over the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to play quiz. However, this response is made in a personal capacity and independently of any other responses you may have received.

#### FARNWORTH NORTH, FARNWORTH SOUTH AND KEARSLEY

The boundaries you have drawn for the above proposed wards are reasonable in and of themselves and reflect the historic area of Farnworth and Kearsley boroughs very well. However, I have strong concerns that there are insufficient voters to sustain the number of councillors you have allocated to these wards.

Taking the 2027 forecast electorates, the proposed Farnworth North has an entitlement of 2.70 councillors, Farnworth South 2.75 and Kearsley 2.58. This adds up to an entitlement of 8.03, but you have allocated nine councillors to these three neighbouring wards in a corner of the borough. This is a malapportionment. Eight councillors would be the correct allocation.

If you wish to draw three wards corresponding to the former Farnworth and Kearsley boroughs, it seems to me unarguable that one of them should be a two-seat ward. This can be achieved by cutting Kearsley ward to two members, and transferring all the houses west of the M61 and the western part of polling district LB to Farnworth North or South as appropriate. That would result in the correct allocation, but the knock-on effects of having to rejig the wards in the rest of the borough to add another councillor would be extensive and undesirable.

Instead, I feel a better option would be to accept that there are too few voters to make three three-seat wards for Farnworth and Kearsley boroughs work. My counter-proposal is to retain the current Kearsley, Farnworth and Harper Green wards, with the only change to Great Lever ward the transfer of polling district GA to Queen's Park ward as you propose. This would ensure continuity of the current arrangements while reducing the electorate of Great Lever in a satisfactory way.

#### QUEENS PARK

I support the proposed Queens Park ward as drawn, however I do not feel that the name reflects the area well. The problem with the name is the inclusion of polling district GA, which covers the town centre and the Rose Hill district. Queens Park is not a town-centre park and the name is not appropriate for a ward which covers Rose Hill.

As stated, I support the proposed boundaries but would counterpropose a name change to "Queens Park and Central".

#### HULTON AND RUMWORTH

I have no objection to these wards as proposed.

#### BRIGHTMET, HALLIWELL, LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER, AND TONGE WITH THE HAULGH

I support the boundaries and names proposed for this area. The boundaries of Brightmet ward are particularly well-drawn and reflect the area precisely. As a resident of Little Lever, I feel that the boundary mentioned in paragraph 75 of your report is fine.

#### ASTLEY BRIDGE, BRADSHAW, BROMLEY CROSS and SMITHILLS

While I think that the boundaries you have drawn in north Bolton and south Turton are good and I support them, I do not feel that the ward names you have chosen for the "Bradshaw and Bromley Cross" and "South Turton" wards are appropriate.

To deal with Bromley Cross first, I fear that you have been misled by the map into placing it on the wrong side of the boundary. Bromley Cross lies almost entirely west of the Bolton-Blackburn railway line, not east of it. I note that the official address listed by Royal Mail for the Dunscar Conservative Club, which is centrally-located within your South Turton ward, is "Hardmans Lane, Bromley Cross, Bolton". Similarly, the Last Drop Village on Hospital Road has a Bromley Cross address.

The name "South Turton" is inappropriate for the proposed ward in a different way. "South Turton" correctly relates to \*both\* the current Bradshaw and Bromley Cross wards, as they were both located within Turton district before the creation of the present Bolton borough.

My counter-proposal for this area is to retain the current names "Bradshaw" and "Bromley Cross". Both names are and remain perfectly descriptive for the wards you have drawn.

#### WEST OF THE BOROUGH

I have no objections to the boundaries you have drawn, but I would question whether the changes made to the Smithills ward are sufficient to justify adding "North Heaton" to the ward name, together with the corresponding change to the name of the ward based on (South) Heaton and Lostock. For simplicity I would counter-propose retaining the name "Smithills" which has a long history, and naming the ward to its south "Heaton, Lostock and Chew Moor".

I hope that this submission is helpful to you and I wish you luck in completing your review. I look forward to reading your final recommendations in due course.

Yours,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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