

## Stevenage Borough Council

### Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Stevenage Borough Council - Councillor

### Comment text:

Borough Ward Boundary Review Time Sensitive Message from Councillor Jim Brown 7th August 2022

I am a Borough Councillor for the Old Town Ward in Stevenage. I do have some concerns about the apparent disregard your draft proposals have for community links, community identity, obvious natural boundaries and even how appropriate the name will be for a very different area but appreciate the difficulty of proposing thirteen wards nearly equal in electors which will last for a few years. My reason for making a submission now is the very recent announcement that the Secretary of State has imposed a 576 flat development on the Old Town ward. This is a shock and the development was opposed by all parties on the Council but for the purposes of the boundary review it will distort the new boundaries almost before they come into effect. My best estimate is that the development will add about 1,000 electors. My understanding is that you want the new boundaries to be future proofed for five years or more. In here you will find a relevant reference. It has come to my attention that since 2nd August 2022 the Planning Inspectorate has approved the construction of 576 dwellings on the site of the vacant Icon Building in the Old Town ward - see attached Appeal Decision and Stevenage Borough Council's response at <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/news-and-events/news/our-response-to-the-icon-decision> This development is not included in the projections for the town's electorate population, but will have an obvious impact on the variance for the Old Town ward if this issue is not addressed. Let's say the new development will immediately put the Old Town Ward about 18% over quota. Way beyond what is acceptable in the guidance. Thus please can I urgently request that you reconsider your proposal for the new "Old Town" ward and if necessary pause your work on the overall proposals as a whole while you consider the knock on effects for the Borough as a whole. I am sure you will agree that it would be foolish to implement new boundaries which do not satisfy the guidelines. Apologies for this but beyond my control. Kind regards, Jim Brown Labour Councillor for the Old Town Ward

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### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded