

Date: Thursday, 14 July 2022

Our Ref: AS/JAH

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Review Officer
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Dear ██████████

Epping Forest District Council has considered its position in relation to the first consultation window. Specifically, the Leader's Portfolio Holder Advisory Group (PHAG), comprising primarily of the Group Leaders of all the main groups represented on the Council, has been carrying out the work to date in respect of the Boundary review and they met to consider the form of the Council's response.

Their overall conclusion was that any detailed modelling was best left to the LGBCE in the first instance, but they still had a number of broad points about the nature of the District's communities which they want to share in order to aid your initial work.

This response hasn't formally been endorsed by full Council, but the PHAG is representative, and all of its members are aligned and agree with the thoughts set out below.

Comments

That the parish wards should be used as the building blocks for the new wards.

That urban and rural area should be grouped together (i.e., urban wards with urban wards and rural with rural), as there was more commonality between their local needs and issues.

That the parish wards had historical value and communities tended to use local facilities, schools and places of worship within these areas.

That Loughton and Debden were more integrated and had commonality since the last review.

That consideration should be given to rural wards such as Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers and Passingford having one member wards to represent these areas due to the geographical spread of the electorate and ward.

[Note: The PHAG felt strongly on the above issue. To achieve the average electorate number for a 3-member ward would require grouping together a large number of disparate and very separate communities which would fail the LGBCE's other tests around connection].

That Loughton and Buckhurst Hill had stronger community links rather than Chigwell and this was supported by the nature border of the Roding Valley Meadow Nature Reserve.

That the Broadley Common polling district had commonality with the Roydon ward rather than Epping because of more rural nature of these wards.

That Nazeing and Roydon wards had a conservational area which linked them.

That Bumbles Green polling district was within Nazeing Parish Council although was currently included in the Broadley Common, Epping Upland and Nazeing ward.

That Roydon Village, Dobbs Weir, Broadley Common, Riverside, Nazeingbury and Bumbles Green polling districts had a grouped commonality in communities, parish councils and their rural nature.

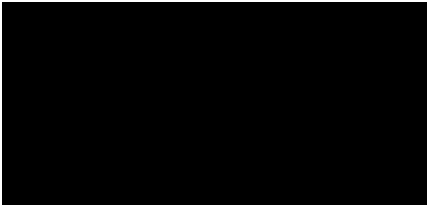
Careful consideration would be required for the North Weald Bassett Ward because of the expected housing growth in and surrounding this area.

That Ongar, Shelley and Fyfield wards had a geographical commonality.

That Loughton St Mary's and St John's should be renamed to included geographical references, rather than churches, because they would relate more to electors.

We hope that you find these comments useful in formulating your draft warding patterns for the second round of consultation.

Kind regards



Andrew Small
Strategic Director