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From: bridget fishleigh [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 October 2021 10:39
To: reviews
Cc: Cllr Bridget Fishleigh
Subject: Boundary review - Brighton and Hove

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear LGBCE team working on the review of councillor ward boundaries in Brighton and Hove.

I am writing as the only elected independent councillor in the city.

I represent the Rottingdean Coastal Ward and would like to share a few thoughts.

1. Please would you review the projections you have for voter numbers for Rottingdean Coastal for 2027.

Thousands of new flats have been proposed for the marina and for the Gasworks site. The marina decision is currently with Michael Gove.

The planning application for the Gasworks site is imminent.

We also have new housing estates in Ovingdean, Rottingdean and Saltdean as well as plenty of in-filling of empty spaces.

The residents in these new developments don't seem to be reflected in your projections for 2027.

2. The Rottingdean Coastal Ward covers a large geographical area.

People living at the marina and in the west of the ward have different issues to those living in the suburbs of Roedean, Ovingdean, Rottingdean and West Saltdean. For example, people in the former areas have communal bins and parking permits.

I would recommend that the more urban areas in the west of Rottingdean Coastal - The Marina, The Arundels, Sussex Square, Lewes Crescent and Eastern Road - are absorbed into the East Brighton ward.

3. A general observation about the changing demographic of the city.

Some of the existing wards have very large student populations and a significant number of rental properties.

I note that the aim of the review is to "recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters".

However, I would like you to consider whether the 35,000 students in our city need the same level of representation as permanent residents.

My son is a student at the University of Sussex living with friends in the Hanover ward. His first port of call for problems are the University's advisers rather than his local councillor.

I hope these thoughts are helpful and look forward to seeing your report.

Please would you send me a reply so I know you have received this email.

Best wishes
Bridget

Bridget Fishleigh
Brighton & Hove's Only Elected Independent Councillor

Representing people living and working in Sussex Square, Lewes Crescent, Eastern Road, Marine Drive, The Arundels, The Marina, Roedean, Ovingdean, Rottingdean and West Saltdean

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