

The Review Officer

Fenland,

LGBCE

PO Box 133

Blyth

NE24 9 FE

May 30, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you with the regards to the proposed boundary changes ,new electoral arrangements for Fenland District Council.

I have lived in March Cambridgeshire since 1973 after moving here with my family from our home town of Hartlepool . My father relocated with his job as a BR railway train driver to the March loco.

I am a local councillor having served on March Town Council since 2013 as a councillor for March North ward.

I feel therefore that I can offer some advice to the proposed changes .

In point 7 of your review document you talk about the aim of making electoral equality .Making each councillor representative of the same number of electorate.

Whilst this is a good idea I feel that it would work in an area that was not rural such as for instance a town like Hartlepool or City like Peterborough but Fenland is a very rural area . So giving each councillor the same number of electorate would mean increasing the size of the wards considerably in some cases. This in turn means that the electorate are harder to reach by their councillor and it becomes harder to set up surgeries for councillors to meet the parishioners .

I therefore favour the existing system with smaller wards purely because it is physically easier to meet the electorate. I feel that if you change to the proposed system that it will be much harder for the councillors to operate effectively.

Another factor to consider is that we have by comparison with a major city like Manchester poor very poor public transport . The electorate in this area rely on their Motor car to get about Fenland .For those that have no cars of course this is a massive disadvantage .

These are the issues that really need to be considered along with you idea of electoral equality.

In the town of March with three wards, yes you may have electoral equality by your

proposals, but look at the size of the wards with March South the smallest and March North and Rural the largest . How many times could you fit the March South ward into March North and Rural ?

Just looking at the picture its going to be that much easier for parishioners to meet their councillor in the south ward of March than the north ward of the town.

Where is the equality in that ?

The changes to the boundaries in Wisbech are much more pronounced .

Why for instance are you proposing including Leverington parish into a Wisbech ward when it already has its own parish council ?

The proposal for a two councillor Parson Drove & Roman Bank ward which would effect the village of Murrow which is currently divided between the parishes of Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary .

This is a rural area that again would be difficult for parishioners and councillors to meet than in a less rural area and I think the proposed change to Parson Drove Roman Bank ward is going to make things harder for the local people as along with other things they may lose their sense of community identity.

I hope my comments are of some help as if you are critical of something then its a starting point for potential improvement.

Kind Regards

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