

Southampton City Council

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Comment text:

In looking at the proposal to increase the number of wards in the city it is obvious that the majority of the growth is in the city centre, mainly in Bargate ward, which is part of the Southampton Itchen constituency. Our approach, detailed below, has been to strengthen the existing community links in the ward, follow natural boundaries, roads and railway and to, as far as possible, have a minimal impact on current parliamentary constituency boundaries in dividing the ward on an east - west basis. The current Bargate Ward naturally splits into east and west sides, mainly due to the long and wide parks which are an ancient extension of common land ending at the old town walls. By following the line of the parks and continuing to the nearest main roads that follow the line of the town walls the ward can be divided from the Charlotte Place roundabout down East Park Terrace into Palmerston Road, then into Queensway. At the end of Queensway the boundary turns east for a short distance along Briton Street before turning south along Orchard Place and continuing south into the Docks. At the northern end of the new Bargate West Ward, all of Bedford Place would be in Bargate West extending the boundary from the middle of Bedford place to the middle of London Road and following London Road and the Avenue to Archers Road where it runs along the middle of Archers Road to Hill Lane then across into Howard Road taking in the GE polling district from Freemantle. From London Road going south it would go along the top of Andrews Park to Charlotte Place where it meets the boundary with Bargate East at the top of East Park Terrace. Bargate West allows for the planned new housing in the Station Quarter and West Quay Road to naturally create a stronger link between the Polygon area and the Old Town. They both share common issues associated with city centre communities, including the night time economy and parking by non-residents. Students resident in shared Polygon housing are mainly from Southampton Solent University and look towards the city centre where the University is based. From Charlotte Place the boundary between Bevois and the new Bargate East Ward would continue along the dual carriageway through Six Dials to Northam Railway bridge. Here the boundary goes along the railway line to the river. Currently the polling district boundary is along the railway and Northam is in Bevois Ward. By moving it into Bargate East the existing strong ties between the Northam, Golden Grove, Chapel and Kingsland communities are strengthened. They share common heritage and with Holyrood were part of the Southampton Regeneration Partnership sharing youth and community workers and have links with issues raised by the football stadium and Eastern Docks as well as being part of the wider City Centre community. Chapel runs into Ocean village and there are links between the two as well as with Oxford Street and Holyrood. Holyrood estate also has strong links with Golden Grove. The impact on the other two neighbouring wards are for Bevois; Northam CF and the east side of Bedford Place Carlton Road up to London Road/Avenue and Archers Road (CC part) are moved into Bargate West but the majority of Banister Park GC is moved from Freemantle to Bevois, It was previously in St Lukes Ward which is the old name for Bevois Ward and has good neighbourhood links around Stag Gates, the Avenue and Common. This community consists of mainly home owning, recently built housing that fits better with the Inner Avenue part of Bevois than with the private sector rented student house shares that form the majority of the Polygon. Freemantle loses GE polling district to Bargate West. From the GC polling District Freemantle retains the east side of Hill Lane, Silverdale Road and Northlands Gardens. This follows the line of Rollesbrook stream which runs down behind Hill Lane, Northlands Gardens and Silverdale Road. It would also include the few properties on the north side of Archers Road from Hill Lane to Silverdale Road. This reduces the size of Freemantle to the size required. We have been advised that based on the projected figures using the software provided the figures for 2027 are • Bargate - West 10,290 • Bargate - East 10,914 • Bevois 10,398 • Freemantle 11,094 We appreciate that this proposal is not in line with that made by Council Officers but as a political party that has campaigned in the area for many years we know our community and many of us live in the area and have done so for many years.

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