

## Blackpool Council

### Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

Please find attached comments on Warbreck and Claremont wards.

### Uploaded Documents:

**Download ([https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1644142185 Blackpool+Wards DraftProposals.docx](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1644142185%20Blackpool+Wards%20DraftProposals.docx))**

The draft proposals strike a good balance between achieving electoral equality, maintaining community links and minimising disruption. Strengths of the proposals are:

- Using Common Edge Road as the boundary between Stanley and Highfield is much clearer than the current boundary that runs across smaller streets.
- The handful of streets east of Devonshire Road have been moved in with the rest of Greenlands.
- Streets south of Talbot Road have been reunited in Brunswick ward.

There are some small changes that I feel would improve the draft proposals further:

### **Warbreck**

To improve the electoral equality of Warbreck ward, its northern boundary should be extended up Warbreck Drive as far as Norfolk Avenue. The streets that would be transferred, such as Duchess Drive, contain a virtually identical mix of bungalows and sea-front flats to those adjacent roads that are already in Warbreck such as Carlin Gate. The main community focuses of St Stephen's Church & Community Centre and Warbreck Drive are common for both these areas. On the ground there is no distinction between them.

This proposal should also reduce the size of Bispham ward to allow the proposal in paragraphs 40-41 of the draft report, which combines all the main Bispham village amenities in a single ward, to be enacted. I don't have a strong view either way on this proposal.

### **Claremont**

The above proposal to increase the size of Warbreck ward should enable some tidying up of the northern boundary of Claremont ward. I propose that the northern boundary should run down Warley Road from Devonshire Road to either Dickson Road or all the way to the Promenade. This would give a cleaner boundary compared to the current mix of some areas using Warley Road and in others running behind it. This area overlooks Claremont Park so there is minimal community impact of transferring this area from Warbreck to Claremont. There have been several issues regarding the park in recent years e.g. antisocial behaviour and this would mean that more of the residents immediately adjacent to it had the same councillors.

The increase in electors in Claremont ward due to the above change should allow a further tidying up the southern boundary. The very welcome proposal in the draft report to move some of the electors south of Talbot Road from Claremont to Brunswick could be extended so that all electors south of Talbot Road are in Brunswick. This should only impact a relatively small number of electors around Rossall Road as many of the properties in this area are commercial in nature. It would seem odd to leave these electors on the other side of a major road from the rest of the ward given that the numbers would no longer require it. Since the demolition of the Queenstown tower blocks in 2016 and their replacement with low rise development, the distinction between the old and new terraces is much less clear compared to the high-rise flats. In my view these small changes would give Claremont ward much clearer boundaries of Warley Road to the north and Talbot Road to the south.

In the unlikely event that this small change makes Brunswick ward too large, it should be possible to move the southern boundary with Talbot from Mere Road to Forest Gate which in any case is a much more identifiable boundary.

Thank you for considering these proposals.