

## Northumberland County Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:**

**E-mail:**

**Postcode:**

**Organisation Name:** Alnwick Civic Society

### Comment text:

I am responding on behalf of Alnwick Civic Society. We see that Northumberland County Council again propose splitting Alnwick into two divisions. We urge the Boundary Commission to retain the current two-member division for Alnwick. We acknowledge that this is the only two-member division in Northumberland, but that is not an anomaly. The current arrangement was chosen by the Commission after careful consideration as providing the best balance between the importance of reflecting community identities and interests and providing for effective and convenient local government. We see no evidence that those considerations have changed. Alnwick is still a community with a cohesive identity, and the issues that most exercise our members demand a coherent approach across the whole town. The suggested boundary along Wagonway Road and Greensfield Avenue looks arbitrary and we fear that any such boundary could prove divisive. Local issues such as housing availability, the high street economy, heritage protection and traffic levels will not be helped by introducing separate divisions for independent high street retailers and out-of-town retail, the historic core and newer housing estates, or separating town centre parking and different visitor facilities. It is not widely known across the town that a change is now being considered. So if the possibility of change remains open after this period of consultation, then we hope that the people of Alnwick will be given sufficient opportunity to express their views before a final decision is taken. We are confident that most will agree that the current arrangements work well, and have done so through different periods: when both councillors were from the same party, when Covid delayed an election of a replacement councillor, and when our two councillors were from different parties. We believe that local experience will confirm that adopting the two-member model was the right decision in 2010, and should be the preferred approach now.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded