

North Hertfordshire Branch

Branch Secretary: Martin Stears-Handscomb

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22 December 2022

Review Officer (North Hertfordshire)
LGBCE
by email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Dear Madam/Sir,

Response to the LGBCE Draft Recommendations: Ward Boundaries in North Herts from North Hertfordshire Co-operative Party Branch

This submission is in response to the draft recommendations on the future ward boundaries for North Herts sent out on 1 November. We are pleased to take up this opportunity to respond to the proposals.

The North Herts Co-operative Party Branch welcomes the proposals for Hitchin and Letchworth and the way they deal with the concerns in our original submission.

In particular we welcome the way in South East Letchworth, the proposal brings together the Jackmans Estate and the area North of Baldock Road which has a similar demographic (incidentally restoring the former Pixmore Ward).

In Hitchin we welcome the maintenance of the demographically distinct Oughton Ward, with the proposed change that unites the small community around Oughtonhead Way. (In an earlier arrangement some years ago, this area had been included in the ward.) We also welcome the maintenance of the Walsworth ward in its current boundaries.

In Royston, where the Credit Union has a presence in the Palace Ward we again welcome the proposals, which maintain the current arrangements for local communities.

We welcome the separation of the urban area of Great Ashby from its current inclusion in a rural ward. It has developed a separate community identity and co-operative organisations.

For similar reasons we welcome the inclusion of the urban ward of St Ippolyts in the Hitchin Priory ward and support the Council's proposal in Baldock to include the urban extension to the east of the town in the Baldock East ward rather than within a huge rural ward.

We make no comment on other areas of the District.

We note that the Council's response also substantially supports the proposals in the areas we have commented on.

Overall, we believe the proposals are a balanced package which will serve the District well.

Yours sincerely

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Martin Stears-Handscomb
Branch Secretary

