

# Calderdale

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Lightcliffe

Calderdale potential boundary changes and additional councillors.

At our Area Forum meeting we were informed about this consultation, and asked if we could respond.

Simple answer, in my opinion, for the Hipperholme and Lightcliffe area would be leave it as it is. There may be a few at the Shibden, Hove Edge or Bailiff Bridge ends that feel more affinity with their neighbouring ward but minor tweaks here would probably then cause a cascade of other problems.

I have looked at the map and the spreadsheet with the current and predicted voters in the different areas. I found it difficult to get a meaning from the raw numbers so I downloaded it and did some work to get total ward numbers and the expected changes. Calderdale has a mixture of vast low density population areas and small high density ones. Drawing simple lines will always cause conflicts of opinion and I feel that this whole exercise could easily be a waste of time and effort. I now know the Boundary Commission for Parliamentary constituencies is a separate body but the farcical to-ing and fro-ing about the Calder Valley constituency is a good example of time wasting, we were explicitly told that council ward boundaries could not be moved to make the numbers work as it was not allowed, but then they changed their minds and accepted a split in the Ryburn ward. For the ward boundaries I am puzzled by the choice of 2029 as a point for population changes as that is exactly the time that both the Thornhill and Woodhouse “garden estates” are expected to be started on which (if they happen?) will have a massive effect on the Brighouse area.

I know this may not be popular with Councillors but the current wards are not vastly different in population sizes, and juggling the ward boundaries to create a brand new ward for the three extra Councillors would be difficult, time-consuming and expensive, and then there would be the ongoing expenses for the extra Councillors. As previously mentioned, if the Local Plan does proceed and most of the additional housing starts to be built,

and there are also firm commitments for the two garden estates then that would be a better time to have a thorough overhaul of the boundaries and number of Councillors.

By all means have a quick scan at what the possible changes could be but for the time being leave things as they are and revisit the problem in about five years' time.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*