

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Please see attached.

Attached Documents:

- Suggestions for Boundary changes - Bradford wards 2023-09-05.pdf



Dear Sir

As a resident of Bowling Ward in the Bradford East parliamentary constituency, and the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, I am responding to the request for suggestions on the ward boundaries within the council area.

A review of boundaries of the constituencies for parliamentary elections has recently been completed. In my opinion this was a wasted opportunity. I could not find the number of voters, but there are approximately 420,000 people over the age of 16 in the Bradford Metropolitan area (calculated from ward profiles <https://ubd.bradford.gov.uk/district-and-ward-profiles/ward-profiles-2023/>). This means the average constituency size is 84,000 over the age of 16 (this means we are close to the average constituency for the UK: 82,000 voters).

Before the boundary changes the numbers over the age of 16 in the Bradford constituencies were:

Bradford East	89864
Bradford South	81416
Bradford West	90606
Keighley	79934
Shipley	79807

To even the numbers in the constituencies we could have made the following changes:

Move 1300 from Bradford East and 1300 from Bradford West into Bradford South.

Move 4000 from Bradford East to Shipley.

Move 4000 from Bradford West to Shipley.

Move 4000 from Shipley to Keighley.

The only change recommended by the boundary commissioners was to move box 05F (Laisterdyke) from Bradford East to Bradford South (box 05F may have around 1300 voters).

I do not think this was the right decision as it will make it harder for political parties to campaign effectively and it will confuse voters who expected to be voting for the MP for Bradford East.

I do not think we should move this area from Bowling & Barkerend to Tong when we revise the ward boundaries as Tong ward is already the largest ward in Bradford South constituency and the additional population will take it above 16,000 voters.

If we do succeed in re-organising the wards in the Bradford metropolitan area so they each have around 14,000 voters we should petition the boundary commission to redraw the boundaries for parliamentary elections to match the wards.

Changes to ward boundaries

I have been told that we are intending to make minor adjustments to ward boundaries rather than a comprehensive re-drawing. With this in mind we should try to make sure no ward is larger than 16,000 or smaller than 12,000, and we should move parts of larger wards into smaller constituencies where this is practical.

Bowling & Barkerend has 16,410 people over 16 and a high proportion under 16.

Bolton & Undercliffe is the only adjacent ward which is below average (13,368 people over 16). The area bounded by Shipley Airedale Road, Otley Road, Undercliffe Lane, Killinghall Road, and Barkerend Road (box 05B) could be moved from Bowling & Barkerend to Bolton & Undercliffe.

City ward has 18,283 people over 16 and a high proportion under 16. If parts of the University district (bounded by Manchester Road, Southfield Road, Legrams Lane) were moved to Great Horton ward we could then move parts of Great Horton ward and Little Horton ward to Wibsey ward.

I have no suggestions concerning Wyke ward, I expect it will remain significantly undersize. It is NOT practical to move the adjacent area of Tong ward (boxes 25A and 25 B, Bierley) to Wyke ward because the M606 provides a barrier.

It will take major changes to the boundaries of Thornton, Heaton, and Idle & Thackley wards to increase the size of Shipley and Keighley constituencies. I am not sufficiently familiar with these areas to make any suggestions.

Wharfedale ward has only 9,761 people over 16.

There are several possible ways to increase its electorate:

- 1) Transfer Hawksworth village (west of A6038) from Leeds Metropolitan District to Bradford. (Probably not practical.)
- 2) Transfer Morton and Eldwick from Bingley ward (box 02C and part of box 02B) to Wharfedale ward (which could revert to the name Rombalds ward).
- 3) Transfer Ben Rhydding (parts of boxes 14C and 14E) from Ilkley ward in Keighley constituency to Wharfedale ward in Shipley constituency.

Ilkley ward is also quite small, 12,619 people over 16. It will be even smaller if it loses Ben Rhydding to Wharfedale. The number of voters could be increased by transferring Addingham (box 9A) from Craven ward to Ilkley ward. (Craven has 14,912 people over 16, it is the largest ward in Keighley constituency.)

If you transfer voters from Ilkley (in Keighley constituency) to Wharfedale (in Shipley constituency) you will need to transfer some voters from Shipley constituency to Keighley constituency.

As Bingley rural is the largest ward in Shipley constituency (15,511 people over 16) you could transfer box 03A Cullingworth from Bingley rural (in Shipley constituency) to Worth Valley ward in Keighley constituency.

I hope this is helpful.

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