

County Durham

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Comment text:

Related subject: Barnard Castle

The proposal to remove the 2 member Barnard Castle West Ward and include Upper Teesdale in a 3 member Barnard Castle Ward ignores the unique rurality of Upper Teesdale, compared to the urban nature of Barnard Castle. Although the Commision's proposal meets the criteria of members to electors ratio it could easily result in electors being represented by councillors from outside their locality. It would make far more sense to ensure that the more rural area of Upper Teesdale (ie the area West of Barnard Castle was a single member constituency). I would like to see the balances of electors for such a proposal as it would appear that Upper Teesdale residents are being used to help produce that 1% variance figure for Barnard Castle at the expense of meaningful representation in the future. Having said that the current situation of two representatives for Barnard Castle West is not sustainable either. A useful addition to your report would be to include 'before' and 'after' numbers of electors to show how many people would be represented per councillor compared to the current situation.

Attached Documents:

None attached