

Essex

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Organisation Name: Colchester Liberal Democrats (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Colchester

Liberal Democrats support boundary changes that ensure a broad equivalence in the number of residents and electors in any Division. But, this should not be at the expense of community cohesion and identity, inclusive of geography and sense of place.

Colchester Liberal Democrats accordingly support continuity for the d current Division of Mile End and Highwoods, recommending only minor adjustments whether by whole or part polling district. Even if that would mean a Division at the high end or beyond of the target population range. As the current Division has two strongly interwoven urban areas, Mile End and Highwoods within a distinct boundary, of the A12 and North Station. With shared country park, schools, clubs, community centres it works.

The current Division also encompasses the Parish boundary of Myland Community Council, meaning that they have one Essex County Councillor representing all of their residents. This has added to collective effectiveness and sense of local identity, a sense of community that will be damaged if proposals to spread the current Division across 3 or even 4 newly shaped Divisions are accepted.

At the very least all Mile End wards as connected urban areas must be kept together, not split between different Divisions. And the current physical A12 and North Station boundaries kept as recognised by local residents, whether old or more recent. The alternate of up to three different County councillors within the MCC parish boundary is not right nor practical. In the interests of the local community, therefore, we request that either the existing Division is maintained; or that any changes keep to the principle of keeping MCC parish within one County division.

Attached Documents:

None attached