

Derbyshire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: North Derbyshire Conservatives (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Dear Sirs

I am writing in response to your consultation as Deputy Chair (Political) on behalf of the North Derbyshire Conservative Federation, which is the local Conservative Party organisation representing the parliamentary constituencies of Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire (as well as the District and Borough Councils of the same name).

Our Federation broadly supports Derbyshire County Council's submission to you, agreed by Full Council on 12th July 2023 (available here). We acknowledge that it is challenging to propose boundaries which have electoral parity, respect and reflect community interests and identities and promote effective and convenient local government. However, we feel that the proposals put forward by the County Council are pragmatic and seek to meet all of these tests as much as is geographically possible.

With respect to Bolsover, Chesterfield and most of the proposed divisions in North East Derbyshire, we agree with and support the County Council's submission and justifications in full.

With regard to the existing Eckington and Killamarsh Division, while we support the proposals set out in the County Council's submission, we recognise that there are other workable solutions which the Commission may like to consider.

Derbyshire County Council proposes splitting the Eckington & Killamarsh dual member seat into two separate single member divisions in its submission (Eckington – comprising most of Eckington, Ridgeway, Marsh Lane and Coal Aston; & Killamarsh – comprising Killamarsh, Spinkhill, Renishaw and a small section of Eckington South), which again we support, however we acknowledge that the boundary between the two, cutting up into southern Eckington is not necessarily optimal. We therefore suggest two possible other alternatives which the LGBCE might also like to consider.

Firstly, although not included in the 2029 forecast electorates, planning permission has now been granted on appeal for almost 400 houses south

of Killamarsh at Westthorpe. This significant future increase in the population of Killamarsh probably renders the addition of KC polling district from Eckington South into the division unnecessary in order to achieve greater electoral parity.

Secondly, noting that the DCC proposed boundary does not preserve Eckington's integrity, another alternative could be to maintain Eckington and Killamarsh Division as a dual member seat with the addition of FB, FD and GC to bring it closer to the optimum number of electors.

The above are suggestions which we believe the LGBCE could consider in relation to Eckington and Killamarsh, but it is worth highlighting that we do not have a specific preference for any of these over the others and would welcome the Commission's views.

We look forward to seeing your first draft proposals in due course and participating fully in the next consultation.

Yours sincerely

Alex Dale
DC Political
North Derbyshire Conservatives

Attached Documents:

None attached