

Solihull

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Comment text:

Please see attached submission from Solihull Liberal Democrats.

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Commission Letter Lib dem solihull.pdf



Solihull
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Draft Ward Boundary Proposals

I am writing this letter as the Deputy Group Leader of the Lib Dem Group on Solihull Council to confirm that having studied both the council's proposals and those developed by the Green, that the proposal developed by the Green group represents a better redistribution of the wards within Solihull and is the one we support.

The Green group's proposal is the better solution, because it provides better flexibility for future growth. In the North, the addition of SM01 to Castle Bromwich not only more evenly distributes areas of deprivation among all of the wards, but prevents a small landlocked by Birmingham ward at the northern tip of Solihull, which has little potential for future growth. The argument that the ward should remain with the parish boundaries, carries little weight, when none of the other parish boundaries in North Solihull are given similar weight.

The inclusion of the northern poling districts of Bickenhill into Chelmsey Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge make sense, as they are developments of a similar nature to the rest of North Solihull. This makes Bickenhill once again into a truly rural ward.

In the South, the transfer of BL03 into Dorridge and Hockey Heath prevents a similar problem as with Castle Bromwich, with a small ward on the south western tip of Solihull, which it is difficult to expand without taking parts of Knowle (which shouldn't be separated). The rural nature of BL03 works well with Dorridge and Hockley Heath and existing plans to improve transport links from Dorridge to the Blythe Valley Park are already building connection between the two areas.

The advantage of putting BL02 into Shirley South rather than into St. Alphege means that St. Alphege isn't one of the larger wards. This is advantageous in future in view of the redevelopment of the town centre, which is likely to drive significant growth in St.

Alphege. This argument can also be made for Silhill, which is also smaller sized in this proposal.

The redistribution among the Shirley Wards results in a more even balance between the wards.

Yours Sincerely,



Kathryn Thomas

Lib Dem Group Deputy Leader