

# Cheshire East

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** High Legh Ward (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Good afternoon,

Please find below my comments to the Boundary Commission Consultation for High Legh Ward.

The Boundary Commission's proposed changes for High Legh Ward would reallocate approximately 10% of its electors to Knutsford Ward, primarily from areas like the new Tabley Park development, and possibly seeping into Parishes such as Mere and Pickmere. The boundary changes are ambiguous in where they intend the proposal. This shift represents a significant change that could disrupt representation within High Legh. While the adjustment aims to balance electoral variance—given that High Legh currently projects a -10% variance by 2030—the extent of this reallocation may affect the ward's representation more than necessary. The reallocation of a large, growing area like Tabley Park, which is closely connected with High Legh, risks diminishing the local identity and cohesion of the remaining ward population, potentially impacting effective representation.

Concerns Raised

Representation Impact: With a forecasted -10% variance already, transferring additional electors could further disrupt balanced representation, particularly if projected population growth doesn't materialize as expected in High Legh. High Legh is a rural Ward, with a lot of agricultural land and there are few opportunities for growth due to the expanse of Greenbelt and protected farming land.

Limited Alternatives: Few alternative boundary configurations were explored for High Legh, which seems a missed opportunity. Considering other options might have helped preserve community representation while achieving closer electoral parity.

Community Sentiment: Some residents in High Legh feel strongly against these changes, viewing the shift as disruptive to long-standing community ties and representation, especially given the high proportion of electors involved.

Tabley Park is a new development but the land in which the housing estate has been built on was also part of Tabley and remains to this day a refreshed part of the community.

1. Were any alternative boundary configurations explored for High Legh, and if so, what factors led to their dismissal?
2. How does the Commission account for potential discrepancies in population projections, and could adjustments be reconsidered if actual growth diverges from forecasts?
3. What impact assessments have been conducted on community identity and neighbourhood cohesion as a result of these boundary changes?
4. How will the Commission ensure balanced representation if High Legh's variance continues to diverge from the average due to this shift?

Cllr Kate Hague  
High Legh Ward

**Attached Documents:**

*None attached*