

Darlington

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Town Centre

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Proposals

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a local business owner, I was disappointed to see that Darlington town centre appears to have been overlooked in the Commission's draft proposals for electoral boundaries.

I am concerned that the proposals do not fully recognise the town centre as a distinct community with its own unique challenges and priorities. In the current economic climate, town centre businesses require effective and coherent local government representation more than ever to help address issues affecting economic vitality, accessibility and the overall attractiveness of the area.

The draft proposals place the town centre within a ward that also includes Blackwell. While Blackwell is an important part of Darlington, it is a distinct suburban community with its own identity, character and local priorities. Businesses and residents in and around the town centre face very different issues from those experienced in predominantly residential suburban areas. These include parking pressures, traffic congestion, the impact of town centre events, business sustainability and the need to maintain a thriving retail and hospitality sector.

To ensure effective representation, it would be preferable for the town centre and its surrounding neighbourhoods to form a more coherent electoral area. Communities around Southend Avenue and Abbey Road, for example, have strong connections to the town centre through proximity, travel patterns and shared concerns. Residents in these areas regularly experience issues such as parking congestion and increased traffic associated with town centre activity, giving them common interests with businesses and residents located in the town centre itself.

While I appreciate that the town centre may not contain sufficient electorate to justify a ward in its own right, I believe there is a strong case for creating a ward centred on the town centre and its adjacent neighbourhoods. Such an arrangement would better reflect community interests,

provide clearer representation and allow councillors to focus on the specific challenges facing this important part of Darlington.
I therefore respectfully ask the Commission to reconsider the proposed boundaries and give further consideration to creating an electoral area that more closely reflects the town centre and the communities that are most closely connected to it.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Yours faithfully,

Attached Documents:

None attached