

York

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Comment text:

Related subject: SouthEast York - Derwent

I am writing about the proposed Derwent ward.

The two-councillor Derwent ward is too large to represent well. I ask the Commission to split it into two single-councillor wards.

The Commission has itself raised this doubt. At paragraph 59 of the draft report it says it would welcome evidence on whether the two-member ward is too large to represent effectively, and it sets out a split: one ward of Naburn, Deighton, Wheldrake and Elvington, and one of Kexby, Dunnington, Holtby and Murton. I support that split.

The ward stretches across the whole rural fringe to the south and east of York and ties the bulk of eight parishes to just two councillors. People in one corner share little with those in another, and each councillor must cover a wide spread of villages with long gaps between them. A single councillor for a tighter group of parishes would know the area better, be easier to reach, and be easier to hold to account.

Major roads cut this ward rather than bind it. The A64 runs across it, while the A19, A1079 and A166 fan out from York and carry the villages off in different directions on fast, heavy traffic. The result is that the parishes sit on separate routes with no easy way to travel between them: the southern villages look down the A19, those to the east toward the Hull road, those to the north-east along the A166. The ward has no shared centre and no road that links its parts. This fails the Commission's own test (paragraph 98) of good links across a ward and a shared sense of place.

The split the Commission has already drawn keeps both wards within good electoral equality, so accountability improves at no cost to the numbers. I therefore ask the Commission to adopt two single-councillor wards in place of the proposed Derwent ward, on the lines it has set out.

Source: New electoral arrangements for City of York Council — Draft Recommendations (LGBCE, April 2026), paragraphs 59 and 98, and

Appendix A.

Attached Documents:

None attached