

## Castle Point Borough Council

### Personal Details:



### Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

The current ward boundaries for Canvey Island have long been unfair to residents of Canvey West. As we only have two councillors, our ratio of voters to councillors is currently roughly 1:2075 as opposed to 1:1586 for other wards such as Canvey Winter Gardens. If we are going to have less representatives, we should have a much closer voter to representative ratio than we currently have. This could be achieved by shifting ward boundaries across the island more generally to the West by a few roads. For example, Canvey East could take the roads up to May Avenue currently in Canvey South. Canvey South could, in turn, take up to Craven avenue and the Sandy Bay park homes or up the area around Southwick road instead. Another issue is the projected electorate. Canvey West was set to increase in population significantly due to the Local Plan for development in Castle Point. It would be unfair if Canvey West finally had a fair voter to representative ratio just to see its population massively increase due to the local plan. This is especially prescient when considering that places such as Canvey Winter Gardens have no planned major development sites, whereas Canvey West had three. Finally, can we just have single-councillor wards? The whole point of multi-member districts is to represent the diverse political views of an electorate but a First-Past-The-Post voting system makes this redundant. It would be better to have smaller districts with one representative so that they could better engage with and represent their residents. Please also consider the above points in the context of two seats being removed from Castle Point. I have no problem with reducing the number of councillors, I think that is an ok idea if done correctly. However, many Canvey residents have felt aggrieved by the reduction of councillors since being merged into Castle Point Council. Consequently, any cases of Canvey Wards (such as Canvey West) being punished with a higher ratio of voters to representatives would be likely to fuel further disillusionment and mistrust in Castle Point Council. Similarly, if Canvey is to have another two-councillor ward (e.g. in East or Winter Gardens) then the same issues as the ones I have raised above would apply to them.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded