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Sent: 03 May 2021 15:01
To: reviews
Subject: South Staffordshire District Council Boundary Review 2021-comments from South Staffordshire Labour Party

Categories: Submissions

1. Any boundary changes have to reflect recent and future planned local population and community changes.
2. All boundary changes have to maintain the identity of existing communities and neighbourhood landmarks. This assists the voting public to identify with the new Council structure, facilitating a stronger local identity and encouraging more interest in participation in the democratic process.
3. Boundary changes need to take note of public transport access routes between population centres and community resources both within and outside any Ward.
4. The boundary changes have to make sense to local people otherwise apathy and disillusionment are encouraged. They should be accompanied by public education and involvement.
5. It is accepted in principle that all wards should contain a roughly equal number of voters. This is only fair. However, all wards should also contain an equal number of Councillors. If some Wards have 2 seats and others 1 then a political party holding the 2 seats in one ward is better placed to represent their electorate in relation to a single Councillor from another political party in another Ward.
6. The social deprivation levels within a Ward should also be taken into account in respect of the allocation of Ward populations. Socially deprived areas tend to place a greater representation burden upon their elected Councillors.
7. Based on the data from comparative reviews completed in similar sized local authorities across the country we believe a reduction of 10-12 Councillors spread our fairly across South Staffordshire would be a fair result and one we would support.

Hello. I have been advised through South Staffordshire District Council that there is a Boundary Commission review taking place in respect of the ward boundaries of the Council. I cannot find reference to this review on your website but have decided to forward some initial thoughts anyway on behalf of South Staffordshire Labour Party. The District Council website has a vague reference to the review taking place but without any link to the consultation.

If the information received from the South Staffordshire District Council is accurate and the review is indeed taking place, I would be most grateful if I could be updated in respect of the review outcomes and any additional periods of consultation around proposed changes to boundaries and councillor numbers. Many thanks.

Michael Vaughan
Chair, South Staffordshire Labour Party