

Southampton City Council

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Comment text:

I am a serving Bargate Councillor, the ward most affected by the changes to the ward boundaries and have been a Councillor for 16 years, witnessing the huge growth of population and development of brownfield sites in the city centre. I wish to propose an amendment to the current proposed boundaries that will affect Bevois, Bargate South and Bargate North - this is not a major change and is driven by natural communities and representations from residents in the affected area. Specifically, I propose that the St Mary's area comprising Golden Grove, St Mary's Street, James St etc is switched from Bevois to Bargate South, as there is strong community and neighbourhood links with neighbouring areas in Kingsland estate, Chapel and Holyrood estate and much less links with areas like Northam or Newtown. There is a set of natural boundaries formed by the railway line to the east and to the north plus the significant barrier of Six Dials road junction which has subways but is a major break in connectivity for people and acts as a natural barrier also. St Mary's Street acts as a local High Street including its market serving mainly the communities mentioned above, whereas Newtown and Northam both have parades of shops that are their local focus. Residents in Kingsland, Holyrood and Chapel all use St Mary's Street plus the St Mary's surgery and have many issues in common and heavily used links including the walkway from Kingsland estate into St Mary's via Craven Walk. To compensate for this change, I propose that the Bargate North/South boundary drops slightly southwards to go along the railway line which runs underneath the Civic, i.e. along New Road, Commercial Road (i.e. not use the inner ring road) and Bevois slightly expands westwards to include London Road. I have not been able to access any software to verify these numbers but understand that Bargate South will be quite low in terms of numbers for some time, while new developments wait to come on stream.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded