



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Kate Green MP**

24 January 2022

I write in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston to offer my comments on the draft boundary changes for Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council.

I am broadly supportive of the Commission's proposals for the 4 draft Stretford wards and the 4 successor wards in the Urmston area. I am also supportive of the proposed names for these wards (Stretford/Longford/Gorse Hill/Old Trafford/Lostock & Barton/Urmston/Davyhulme/Flixton).

In particular I welcome the move of the Stanley Road area currently in Longford into the proposed Old Trafford Ward; and the use of the A56 as a robust boundary between Stretford and Longford wards. These are sensible changes. I am also pleased to see the area around Humphrey Park moving to the proposed Stretford Ward from the current Urmston, enabling the electors of Lostock Ward to move from the current Gorse Hill to the proposed Lostock & Barton. This is a more acceptable place to cross the M60 reflecting the fact that many Lostock residents access services in the Urmston/Davyhulme area.

I am especially supportive of the proposal to unite the community around Woodsend Circle into a new Davyhulme Ward. This brings together parts of the current Flixton and Davyhulme West wards and would better reflect community ties and the services residents use locally.

With all of the above said I am very concerned to see the proposals for the Western Parishes Ward. This places the communities of Carrington and Partington (an area with significantly higher levels of deprivation than both the national and Trafford average) with the extremely affluent farming communities of Warburton and Dunham. These communities could not be more different: they do not share services, they do not interact and the Commission's report implied that their commonality was in poor public transport. This is true, but is evidence of how the areas are divided not cohesive.

I am aware that the Trafford Labour Group is submitting a proposal that involves leaving the current Bucklow St Martins Ward intact and returns Warburton and Dunham to Bowdon Ward where it is currently situated. This is in my view a much more satisfactory solution – Dunham is a historic part of Altrincham whilst the part of Bucklow St Martins in Sale West (the BSF polling district proposed to be split between Ashton upon Mersey and Manor wards in future) experiences similarly high levels of deprivation to Partington. Moreover children in the small community of Carrington often attend All Saints Primary in this part of the current Ward, reflecting community ties that will only be strengthened as Carrington expands in the direction of Sale West.

It is my view that the Trafford Labour alternative proposal is superior in terms of electoral equality, with no wards more than 10% above or below average size. I am also absolutely clear that it is a more effective solution in terms of community cohesion. Partington and Carrington are vastly different to Warburton and Dunham and these areas should not be combined in a single electoral ward that would be far too geographically large relative to other Trafford wards for the level of representation in this locality to be of usual Trafford standards.

Constituency office telephone number: 0161 749 9120

Westminster office telephone number: 020 7219 7162

Email address: [kate.green.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kate.green.mp@parliament.uk)

I hope you will take my comments on board.

Yours sincerely

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Kate Green MP  
Labour Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston