

Review Officer (Southampton)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

22nd June 2022

Dear Review Officer

Submission of Southampton Itchen Conservative Association

I am writing on behalf of Southampton Itchen Conservative Association (referred to as the Association here onwards) with our response to the Local Government Boundary Commission recommendations for Southampton City Council. This Association covers the following seven current wards: Bargate, Bitterne, Bitterne Park, Harefield, Peartree, Sholing and Woolston. The Association also represents 14 of the 21 existing councillors for this area.

The Association has no concerns about the recommendation for 'no change' in Bitterne Park ward and Harefield ward. The Association supports the minor adjustment between Bitterne ward and Sholing ward and believes this change makes sense from a representation point of view as well as for the population in that area.

The Association has reflected on the views of a number of resident groups about divided localities and communities between these existing wards and accepts that any proposal has the potential to split communities. It also acknowledges that twenty years on from the last review, most people will be familiar with the current arrangements in those areas.

The Association also understands the need for Woolston ward to change because of the population growth in that ward. As such, the Association supports the areas added to Peartree ward and Sholing ward. The Association also agrees with the boundary commission that the railway line divide makes sense on the west of Woolston ward and as such retaining all of Newtown Road and Wrights Hill in Woolston ward seems logical.

The changes to the existing Bargate ward are more significant and the Association accepts that the population growth and addition of a new ward in the city centre will inevitably change Bargate ward.

The Association believes the currently named Bargate South ward has a logical northern boundary along Cumberland Place and Blechynden Terrace. It also sees sense in an eastern boundary along Kingsway. The boundary that is harder to define is along Chapel Road, which seems to divide residential properties on the Bargate South side with the more industrial area of Chapel Road moving into Bevois ward. It is anticipated some of this industrial area may become residential in the future which may require a review of where the 'Chapel' community logically fits. However, the Association believes the boundary works currently. On this basis, the Association is broadly supportive of the new Bargate South Ward.



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The proposed Bargate North ward is supported by the Association. The Association would propose a new name for this ward. With Polygon ward, Rollesbrook ward or Banister Park ward considered suitable options. This would enable the Bargate South ward to remain as Bargate ward reflecting the historical significance of the old walled town and the Bargate monument which would be retained in this ward.

The Association recognises that moving the areas of Golden Grove and St Mary's into Bevois Ward may not reflect community ties. However, the Association has not been able to propose an alternative warding arrangement that meets community need and provides electoral balance.

Southampton Itchen Conservative Association as such only propose changing the names of Bargate South ward and Bargate North ward to better reflect the communities they contain.

Yours Faithfully



Cllr David Fuller

Chairman

Southampton Itchen Conservative Association