

West Northamptonshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Mark West

Email: Mark.West@westnorthants.gov.uk

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: West Northamptonshire Council (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Attached.

Attached Documents:

- Letter to Boundary Commission on draft recommendations.docx



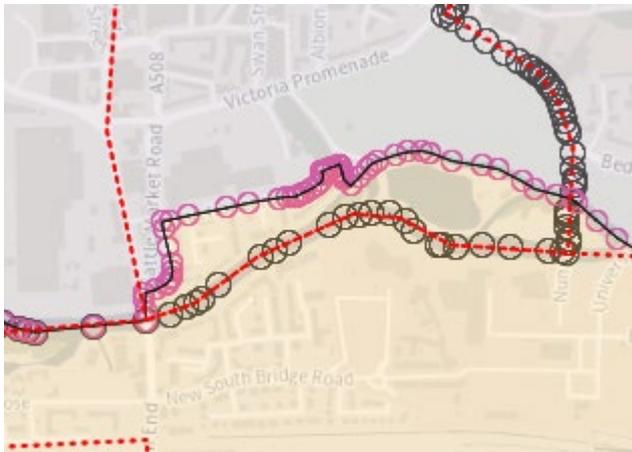
4 April 2023

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission,

Re: West Northamptonshire Council Boundary Changes

We have reviewed the draft proposal that you have put forward for the wards of West Northamptonshire Council and have some technical comments in relation to some of the proposed boundaries that we wish to raise with you. These issues only arise in areas where the polling districts have been split in two and cause challenges with finding polling stations within the areas listed below.

Castle & Delapre & Briar Hill Boundary



The new Northampton Marina Ward created to ensure that Delapre & Briar Hill ward is within the variance. We have had a look at the area and due to the small size of the area concerned there are limited options for polling stations. Of those that are available, we have concerns with regards to the accessibility of the venues and their availability, if this proposal were to be implemented. We would therefore ask that this particular aspect of the proposal be reconsidered on the grounds of ensuring it can meet the criteria on effective and convenient local government.

Billing & Weston Boundary

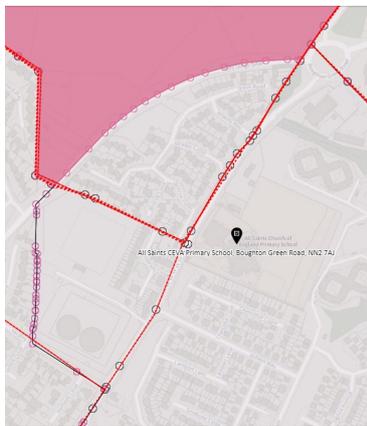


The current polling station for polling district CRP7 is in the split off part of this area. The residents in the area to the North of the A45 in this polling district would need to travel to the other side of the A45

to vote as there is nowhere to have a polling station in this area. The residents in this area are less likely to have access to transportation than those who live in Billing Aquadrome. We would therefore ask that this particular aspect of the proposal be reconsidered on the grounds of ensuring it can meet the criteria on effective and convenient local government.

Kingsthorpe & Moulton Boundary

The Dixon Road parish ward would need its own polling station as the makeup of all the surrounding areas would be different. Even if we moved the parish boundaries as part of a community governance review, it would still be in a different Parliamentary constituency. The main issue with this area is that there are no venues we could book, and the roads are mainly single yellow lines along the only area that we would be able to site a mobile polling station. This means the staff wouldn't have anywhere to park. In the event this is split off they would have to go to the school, which is used as a polling station already, but this adds to the risk of cross contamination within the polling station. For this area we appreciate there are strong community grounds for including this area in Kingsthorpe South. We would therefore ask that this particular aspect of the proposal be reconsidered on the grounds of ensuring it can meet the criteria on effective and convenient local government.



We are grateful to the Commission for the work that has been put into this review and are hopeful that these small but important considerations can be taken into account when formulating final recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Anna Earnshaw | **Chief Executive**
West Northamptonshire Council