

Derbyshire

Personal Details:

Name: Robert Largan
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of Parliament)

Comment text:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in relation to the local government boundary changes for Derbyshire County Council.

I want to start by acknowledging that the numbers for High Peak are extremely difficult, making the job of coming up with appropriate boundaries a serious challenge.

I am aware of the proposals put forward by Derbyshire County Council. They have a number of drawbacks, particularly given the large amounts of change proposed. However, having spent a considerable amount of time looking at the numbers carefully, I must concede that I have been unable to come up with a more satisfactory proposal, which delivers electoral equality while still respecting community ties and geography.

Given that the current Chapel & Hope Valley, Buxton North & East and Buxton West divisions are all within quota, I had hoped that they could be treated as a subgroup within the proposals and remain unchanged. However, given the Etherow, Glossop & Charlesworth (x2) and Whaley Bridge divisions are all significantly undersized, I haven't been able to find a way to make this possible, while also satisfying electoral equality requirements. If the LGCE are able to find an alternative solution that allows the Chapel and Buxton divisions to remain an unchanged subgroup, I would seriously consider supporting such a proposal.

In the absence of such a proposal, the Derbyshire County Council proposals appear to be the least bad option.

However, the proposed names of the new divisions are not the most appropriate as they do not accurately reflect the communities within the divisions. I will comment on the proposed division names below:

Buxton North & King Sterndale - I support this name.

Buxton South & Goyt Valley – I support this name.

Chapel & Hope Valley South – It would be more accurate to rename this division Chapel & Hope Valley. The part of the Hope Valley ward that is proposed to be taken out of this division is largely not within the actual Hope Valley but in the Upper Derwent Valley. Therefore, it would be less confusing to keep this division called Chapel & Hope Valley.

Gamesley & Charlesworth – The largest part of the electorate in this proposed division comes from Hadfield. Leaving Hadfield out of the division name is therefore confusing. It would be clearer to name this division Gamesley, Hadfield & Charlesworth.

Glossop North & Tintwistle – I support this name.

Glossop South & Hope Valley North – As discussed above, the majority of Hope Valley ward that is being transferred into this division is actually made up of the Upper Derwent Valley. Given that the vast majority of this transferred electorate sits within Bamford with Thornhill Parish Council, I propose a more accurate name for this division be Glossop South & Bamford.

New Mills – It would be more appropriate to rename this division New Mills & Hayfield to more accurately reflect the communities within the division.

Whaley Bridge – I support this name.

To be clear, these are comments on the names of the divisions only. Not on the appropriateness of the division boundaries.

I hope this submission is helpful and I await the LGBCE's proposals with interest.

Kind regards,

Robert Largan MP
Member of Parliament for High Peak

Attached Documents:

None attached