

Isle of Wight Conservative Association



Mishka Mayers
Review Officer (Isle of Wight)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP



9 July 2018

Dear Ms Mayers

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ISLE OF WIGHT: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

We welcome this opportunity to have our say on new council ward boundaries on the Isle of Wight.

As a starting point, we support the Commission's recommendation that the Isle of Wight should continue to elect 40 members of the Isle of Wight Council (IWC). This is an appropriate size.

We are aware that the local authority is submitting its own representation, following its Full Council meeting on 18th July. Although this draft submission is not yet published, we have seen a Powerpoint presentation of IWC's proposals, which was made available to town and parish councils on the Island.

In particular, we strongly support the local authority's approach which seeks to respect the boundaries of town and parish councils, and align with them wherever possible. These boundaries are, in most instances, an important demarcation of individual communities and should form the building blocks of electoral divisions for the Isle of Wight Council. This approach also allows IW Council members to work in effective and efficient partnership with the town / parish councils in their respective areas.

We support the IW Council's proposal to divide the current two-member ward of Brading, St Helens & Bembridge into two single-member divisions. This will provide greater local accountability and ensure an equitable approach with the arrangements elsewhere on the Island.

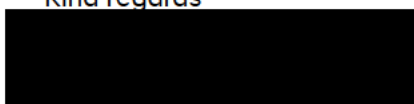
We understand the IW Council will be proposing that a number of electoral divisions (with or without boundary changes) are renamed to better reflect community identity. We welcome this. However, we would ask that this approach is also taken in respect of the current Lake South electoral division. As the Commission will be aware, this electoral division is currently made up of the parish wards of:

- Polling District Q1: Lake South (Lake Parish Council) with 1302 electors; and
- Polling District Q2: Shanklin North (Shanklin Town Council) with 1627 electors.

The latter is evidently the more populous part of the electoral division, and it therefore seems anomalous that it is called Lake South when a clear majority of the ward is in Shanklin parish, and its residents identify as being Shanklin residents. We would therefore ask the Commission give consideration to renaming this electoral division (if it continues to exist in its current form, with parts of both parishes), as either (1) Shanklin North (if the Shanklin element continues to be the majority part of the ward), (2) Lake South and Shanklin North, or (3) another name, such as Gatten & Lake (with Gatten reflecting the historic name for that part of Shanklin, as per the name of the local primary school which sits in the ward).

We trust this submission is helpful and we look forward to seeing the Commission's own proposals for the Isle of Wight warding arrangements in due course, on which we will comment.

Kind regards



David Pugh, Chairman, Isle of Wight Conservative Association

 
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