

SANDOWN INDEPENDENTS

Working for Sandown

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

4 July 2018



Dear Sir or Madam

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ISLE OF WIGHT WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

We are pleased to set out below the submission by Sandown Independents in respect of the current electoral review of the Isle of Wight Council warding arrangements. Our comments relate principally to Sandown but there are also comments regarding the overall fairness of the Isle of Wight Council's recommendations.

SANDOWN PROPOSAL

We are aware of proposals to be submitted to you by the Isle of Wight Council which includes moving the boundary between Sandown North and Sandown South electoral divisions south of a part of Station Avenue in order to bring about a more equal split in terms of numbers of electors between the two divisions. Whilst we recognise the need for similarly sized divisions we are of the view that the north/south split is arbitrary and is not logical in terms of community identity. We would be happy to see the whole of Sandown as a two member division and note the precedent on the Island in the neighbouring two member division of Brading, Bembridge and St Helens. We do however note that the Isle of Wight Council wishes to see all single member divisions on the Island. If this is also the preference of the Commission we would prefer to see an East/West split. This could be achieved by running the boundary along the eastern side of Broadway from the Lake North boundary (Lake Hill) in a northerly direction to immediately north of Carter Street and then east to St John's Crescent. The boundary should then run down the centre of Avenue Road to the junction with Avenue Road where it should run down the centre of Avenue Road to the mini roundabout by the Co-op petrol station at which point it should run to the south of East Yar Road and Faulkner Lane before continuing in a northerly direction to the boundary with Brading, Bembridge and St Helens ED. A map showing the proposed split is enclosed. This would result in approximately 2,700 electors in each division.

Continued.....

SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

We are aware that changes to the warding arrangements in Sandown will have a knock on effect in respect of the Sandown Town Council warding arrangements and would like to see the opportunity taken to review the number of town councillors. There are currently two wards with six councillors in each. We consider twelve councillors to be excessive and note that East Cowes with a larger electorate operates successfully with eight councillors. We would therefore recommend that the number of town councillors is reduced to eight. If you agree to make the whole of Sandown a two member division we would see no reason to have separate warding arrangements for the town council. If on the other hand you decide to continue with two wards for Sandown then two town council wards of four members each would be acceptable.

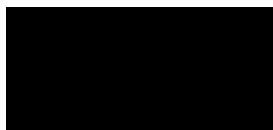
GENERAL POINT REGARDING FAIRNESS

One of the reasons you are carrying out this review is to address inequalities in terms of numbers of electors between divisions. It is therefore particularly disappointing that the Isle of Wight Council is not minded to recommend any action to rectify three neighbouring divisions in the south of the Island which fall well below the 10pc threshold. These are Chale, Niton and Whitwell (84pc), Ventnor East (87pc) and Ventnor West (86pc). We consider that these anomalies could be rectified relatively easily. We invite you to consider the following suggestion:

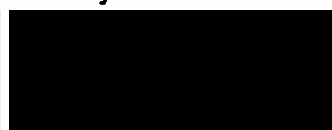
1. Create a new Niton, Whitwell and St Lawrence ED by combining F2 (Niton), F3 (Whitwell), JJ3 (St Lawrence) and JJ1 (Ventnor West) (part). Approximately 2718 electors.
2. Create a new Wroxall and Lowtherville ED by combining N2 (Wroxall), JJ2 (Lowtherville), and JJ1 (Ventnor West) (part). Approximately 2691 electors
3. Create a new Ventnor and Bonchurch ED by combining II1 (Ventnor East), II2 (Bonchurch) and JJ1 (Ventnor West) (part). Approximately 2629 electors.
4. Create a new Arreton, Godshill and Rookley ED combining the three parishes. Approximately 2544 electors.
5. Replace Rookley in the Central Wight ED with Chale. Approximately 2884 electors.
6. Create a new Havenstreet, Ashe and Newchurch ED and make consequential minor adjustments to boundaries in Ryde. Approximately 2888 electors.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our proposals and look forward to seeing your draft recommendations in September.

Yours faithfully



Bob Blezzard
Leader



Catherine Wright
Secretary

BRADING, REMBRIDGE
AND IT HELMS ED

SANDOWN WEST ED

SANDOWN
EAST ED

LAKE NORTH ED

