



November 25<sup>th</sup> 2015

Dear Sir,

Re: Cambridgeshire Electoral Review: further consultation, Castle Ward

Councillor Holland and I are the only Independent councillors on Cambridge City Council and we both represent Castle ward and I as an Independent County Councillor also represent the Castle division. As Independents Cllr Holland and I are elected only if we keep in touch with local people and are aware of the issues which concern them. Accordingly, we can assure you that the news that you do not propose to move from your proposal to merge Castle and Newnham into a two member division has caused widespread anger and disappointment among our electors. Let us explain why.

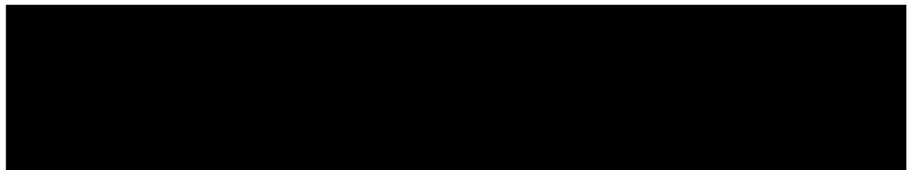
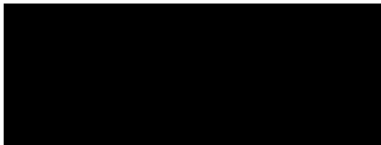
Castle is arguably the oldest part of the city of Cambridge and so named because of the medieval castle which once surmounted the hill to the north of the city. Although there are no ruins to be seen on Castle Hill, this grassy mound is of great importance in the history of Cambridge. Later the site on which it stands became a prison and currently houses Shire Hall. It is largely coterminous with the Parish of the Ascension which comprises the notable community churches of Castle Street Methodist, St Giles, and St Augustine's. Through their reaching out to the local community, musically, culturally and socially as well as pastorally, they have helped to strengthen the sense of Castle as a unified and unique community.

The current Castle division will almost certainly need to be redefined as the population on this side of the city continues to grow but it is our strong wish that the essential core of the division (Castle Hill and the residential and collegiate areas which adjoin it, namely the colleges and residential areas in and around St John's Street and Bridge Street to the south, Huntingdon Road, the Square which comprises Eachard and other roads, the McManus estate and most particularly Windsor Road to the north) should be kept intact as parts of a separate Castle division. If the division is to be 'lopped' we would argue for the transfer to Newnham of neighbourhoods close to Madingley Rd (Conduit and Landsdowne) and for the transfer of a central city college/s to the Market division.

We are particularly concerned at the impact of your proposals on the neighbourhoods to the NW of the existing Castle division, namely Windsor Road and the McManus estate both of which would be incorporated into the Arbury division. As news reached these areas many residents expressed their deep disagreement

with your proposals. These neighbourhoods have developed particularly strong links within Castle, largely as a result of sharing a small shopping centre (inc. a post office and chemist) at the end of Windsor Rd and through the strength and vitality of the residents' associations which have developed over the years. These associations have formed strong links with communities you propose including within the enlarged Castle/Newnham division. The criterion of community cohesion is sufficient in itself to justify retaining Windsor Rd and the McManus within Castle.

May we respectfully request that the Commission look again at their proposals for the Castle/Newnham division in the hope that you will agree to retaining the essential Castle division intact.



County and City Councillor John Hipkin

Councillor Marie-Louise Holland

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