

Hinds, Alex

From: reviews
Sent: 27 November 2015 15:11
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Review of Cambridgeshire County Council divisions in the City of Cambridge

From: Tim Bick [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2015 15:08
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Review of Cambridgeshire County Council divisions in the City of Cambridge

Dear Sir,

In the last round of consultation I made representations on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group on Cambridge City Council and would like to follow up with comments on the further consultation which ends on November 30th.

Of the two sets of boundaries that you have now published for the city of Cambridge we would support those described as "further recommendations" and illustrated in map B. We regard these as accommodating our concerns in respect of the city centre (Market) area, the Mill Road (Petersfield) area and the Romsey area.

In addition to our overall support for the "further recommendaions"/map B, we would like to make the following observation and suggestion:

We note with concern that you have persisted with the proposed two-member division for Castle and Newnham and have added a second one for Trumpington and Queen Edith's. Divisions of this size are so significantly outside the expectation of potential candidates for electoral office in the city that we would anticipate them having a negative impact on participation in the democratic process. Their introduction will create a sense of inequality of responsibility with elected colleagues from one-member wards. They will impair the ability of councillors from all walks of life to perform their roles effectively because those who can today quite satisfactorily be reliant on public transport in an urban area will be faced by a major impediment in visiting constituents and viewing sites and situations within their divisions that are subject to council decision making.

We understand that the city's growth areas present special challenges for you to meet adequately your target number of voters on both 2014 data and 2020 projections. Our proposal to you is to adopt map B, but to draw dividing lines in relation to 2014 voter numbers within both of the proposed two-member divisions (for Castle & Newnham, as close as possible to Madingley Road; for Trumpington & Queen Edith's, as close as possible to Hills Road/the railway line), and to commit to a selective review in 2020 of these internal boundaries only. This would thereby maintain throughout single member divisions for the whole of the city of Cambridge and electorates which could meet your targets adequately on both dates.

Tim Bick
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Cambridge City Council

Tim Bick
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