

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing as a Local Nottingham City councillor for the Clifton North Ward and as a resident in that ward to say that I do not think that the commissions draft proposals are an accurate reflection of the communities within them.

My main concern relates to the manageability of the new 'Clifton North' and its ability to promote your criteria of 'good and effective governance'. As your draft proposals have it, I am somewhat concerned that the proposed Clifton North ward contains too many distinct communities and that potential for competition between these interests is high. The fact that these distinct communities will be represented to a large extent alongside the main Clifton estate (which is also a very distinctive community with a rich community history) will lead to a high degree of competing interests for councillors and central council funding, thus exacerbating the situation beyond the ability of local councillors to cope, and indeed the councils ability to provide local services effectively and efficiently.

Having been a councillor for Clifton North for two years and as a local resident of Clifton Grove estate I know that many of the community interests between Clifton Estate, Clifton Grove, Wilford and Silverdale do not always match up with each other, and that this has usually manifested itself in the form of competition for ward budget allocations which can be found in the Area 8

Committee reports (the committee that oversees community-council relations in the Clifton North, Clifton South and Bridge Wards). Whilst I do feel that as a councillor I have been able to transcend this divide by allocating my own budget in an egalitarian fashion, although other councillors may not which could potentially lead to a disproportionate skew in favour of either the minority communities, which are all geographically bound top the West of the A453 Remembrance Way to the detriment of the estate, or a skew towards the main community and to the detriment of people living in the Estate. Therefore I think any alternative warding pattern needs to take into account this, as I strongly believe your current proposal does not lead to the potential for more effective governance, it does not represent community identities effectively and moreover does not brilliantly reflect your goal of finding a boundary that provides good 'electoral equality'

Of course having struggled to juggle the community interests of the proud and distinct communities in Clifton North, I was astonished to find in October that the commission plan to extend the ward southwards- taking on even more distinct communities and potentially leading to an even greater level of competition between these communities, the main estate, and the Clifton Grove, Wilford and Silverdale areas currently in my ward. The Clifton South A Block for instance contains two distinct communities (Clifton Village and

Barton Green [Hartness Road estate]) with both have their own separate community groups and distinctive community feel which would sit these communities more with Wilford, Clifton Grove and Silverdale rather than as an 'add-on' if you will to the current Clifton North alongside the main estate. I am concerned that these areas will distract the ability of councillors to get the job done effectively for all of these communities considering the required attention needs of these extra communities in addition to attending the Clifton, Silverdale and Wilford Community association meetings that they have to at current, thus making the new Clifton North ward potentially unmanageable and impeding your draft recommendation of 'Clifton North's capacity for good efficient and effective governance.

Yours Faithfully,

Councillor Josh Cook

Councillor for Clifton North Ward on Nottingham City Council