

**City of Nottingham****Personal Details:****Name:** Sam Webster**E-mail:** [REDACTED]**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:****Comment text:**

Although I don't agree with the methodology used to assess elector numbers in each ward area I understand that the Commission is bound by rules set down by Parliament. By selecting an arbitrary date on which to take an audit of electors the numbers are not accurate. Student voters tend to register in the run up to an election so I'm aware that the number of electors on the date the Commission selected is well below the true voter population. There is a real risk of under representation, particularly of young, student voters. However setting aside my concerns about the methodology used I'm supportive of the proposals made for the Wollaton East and Lenton Ward. I'm pleased to see that the Commission has recognised that central to the proposed ward are shared public and community facilities such as Lenton Rec, Hughfields Park and Lenton Abbey Park. The proposed ward area has key sites such as the QMC, University Park and Jubilee Campus at its heart, taking in the connected and linked housing estates. I'm pleased to see that a multi member ward is proposed for Wollaton East and Lenton. It is a large ward area and will need several elected representatives to cover surgeries, committee meetings, ward walks, residents' associations meetings and all of the other duties which councillors in large urban conurbation areas have to work on. The option proposed by the Commission is, in my view desirable as it is an effective 'minimal change' option which satisfies the elector variations that the Commission is working to. Residents will be able to clearly identify with the proposed boundary. Local schools, parks and community facilities are shared by residents in the two current wards of Dunkirk & Lenton and Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey. It is important in this age of austerity to keep bureaucratic and administrative changes simple and efficient. The proposal would allow existing structures within Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Homes and other services such as Nottingham City Council Community Protection to continue service delivery with minimal disruption or unnecessary change. My only other comment would be in opposition to the notion of single member wards in any part of Nottingham City. The challenges and demands on Councillors in the modern political environment, particularly in urban conurbations with high levels of transience, private rented accommodation and the challenges that come with higher than average social issues in my opinion requires multi-member representation. My view is that residents expect and deserve consistent and constant representation. Availability of Councillors 24/7 by telephone, email and social media is now expected by residents. Only by having multi-member representation can residents get the service they deserve. Councillor illness, leave and absence for other personal or professional duties can deprive residents of representation and influence. I believe that multi-member wards also promote diversity and an improved gender balance of elected representatives. Residents get choice on Election Day and choice thereafter in terms of seeking support with an issue. Councillor experience and time-served varies greatly, but multi-member arrangements allow better training and support for newly elected members and can often give a continuity of service to residents. I would encourage the Commissioners to consider arrangements across Nottingham City that maintain the multi-member system that has served our City well for many years. Cllr Sam Webster, current representative for Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Ward

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded