

Review Officer (Nottingham)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
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London  
SW1P 4QP

By email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

14 January 2018

Dear Sirs

### **Local Government Boundary Changes in Nottingham – Dunkirk and Lenton Ward**

I would like to comment on your draft recommendations for Nottingham City. I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lenton Centre of which I am the chair. The Lenton Centre is a social enterprise running a leisure centre and community centre in New Lenton with its origins in the Lenton Community Association. We have a longstanding understanding of the Lenton area through our diverse membership and many years of advocacy for the local area. The Board of Trustees has run the Lenton Centre since 2004 and sends a representative to the Council's Area Committee 4 meetings.

The Lenton Centre falls within Dunkirk and Lenton ward but also has strong links with residents and groups within the Park Estate. As well as many of our customers coming from the Park Estate, residents there also for example organise a biennial open garden trail and some of the proceeds raised for charity are always donated to the Lenton Centre.

Our Board strongly disagree that Dunkirk and Lenton ward should be combined with Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey. Unlike Lenton and the Park Estate, the areas do not share a common identity and a combined area would not result in effective and convenient local government.

Lenton and Dunkirk is a historic area dating back to the Domesday Book and is home to many residents from all parts of the world. The area has a reputation for tolerance and diversity. Similarly, the Park Estate is also home to many residents who weren't born in the UK. Other similarities shared between the two areas are similar houses of a pre-1920's date and a predominance of Victorian and Edwardian properties, many privately rented properties and transient residents, problems with Anti-Social Behaviour especially noise, limited access to green open spaces, and an absence of a secondary school. Children who live in the Park Estate and who attend state primary school will generally attend Edna G Olds Academy, located in Lenton next to the Lenton Centre. Lenton was also joined historically with the Park Estate for many years in the same ward.

Geographically there are other strong ties: both communities are bounded by the Derby Road (an ancient trackway now a major arterial route) on one side and the Nottingham Canal (constructed 1790s) on the other. The areas are also joined by two rights of way. One of those joining Park Road with Lenton Road was officially recognised at a public enquiry by an inspector appointed by DEFRA in 2013 (Ref FPS/Q3060/7/1). In favour of recognising the order of a right of way, the Inspector said: "I consider that

~~a public footpath from Lenton to Nottingham, across The Park, has an ancient origin and had come into existence by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.~~

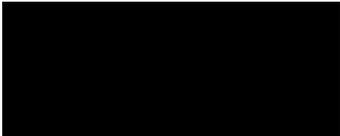
I have looked at the electoral data for Nottingham City. This shows that Polling District A in Dunkirk and Lenton, and the Park Estate, will see an forecast increase in electors of 262 (10%) and 418(15%) by 2023. These very significant increases in electors will add to pressure on already tight local government finances and it is vital that these changes are addressed together. In fact, it is these large increases that prevent Dunkirk and Lenton being added together as they would not give electoral equality. Instead, our Board would like to suggest the combination of Park Estate, Dunkirk and Lenton and the City Centre in a 3-councillor ward:

	2016	2023
DUNA	2,647	2,909
DUNB	1,602	1,605
DUNC	852	855
RPAF	2,878	3,296
BRIB	2333	3423
	10,312	12,088

This would result in a **variance of +4.9%** and provide an excellent electoral equality and join together polling districts which are set to see unprecedented increases in electors as well as be able to concentrate expertise on licencing, transient populations and anti-social behaviour.

The Board respectively request that you take our views into consideration when considering your final recommendations.

Yours sincerely



James Hart