



Nottinghamshire

**POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**



The Review Officer (Nottingham)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
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Dear Review Officer

**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Review of local government ward boundaries in the city of Nottingham**

We have been made aware of the opportunity to comment from a policing perspective upon the proposed draft changes to Nottingham city ward boundaries. We write with a unique insight and experience of working within local ward members both strategically and operationally to promote and deal with crime and local community problems. The ability of the police and partner agencies to engage with all communities has never been more important.

The current ward boundaries have a wider significance than simply providing the framework for electing councillors. In Nottingham, the current ward structure has been used successfully for many years to provide building block for our effective joint working and neighbourhood management at local level. Any changes to ward boundaries and reductions in the number of ward members will have far reaching implications across partner organisations. We would encourage the LGBCE to take account of the following points when making any final recommendations. Our main policing concerns are set out below:

-The concept of area working on ward-based building blocks has been accepted and adopted by the police, voluntary section, housing providers and health providers as existed and been adopted for many years. The current partnership model is envied by external inspectorates and other stakeholders. Any changes to ward boundaries have the potential to dilute the effectiveness of this model and risks disrupting the way public services are shaped and organised.

-We have just undertaken a major review of the Force and neighbourhood policing structures. In April 2018 we are due to move to a geographic structure based on existing wards. Many months work and consultation has gone into designing this revised structure. Any changes to the ward boundaries will have a major adverse impact on local policing command structures.

-Any changes to ward boundaries will inevitably affect beat boundaries and in turn the structure of police information systems. These systems include command and control, NICHE, Compact, OPTIK and the forces website content is structured by ward boundaries. These systems allow for the recording and sharing of intelligence, briefing and tasking of officers in the police and across other partners. Changes to ward boundaries will mean a huge amount of work will be required to change the structure and how information is organised and classified. We are sure health and housing partners would raise similar significant information system issues. Every information system will have to be updated ahead of any changes; otherwise area working, problem solving and engagement processes will be severely compromised.

-Nottingham has been successful in promoting integration and community cohesion. The city of Nottingham residents survey 2016 findings show that 91% of respondents thought that people from difference backgrounds get on well together. Integrated and cohesive communities need diverse community representation and multi member wards can only facilitate this important agenda. We understand the government's new integration strategy is due out later this year and we expect ward members, the wider council and police to have an expanding role in this area.

-Nottingham City Councillors have a high profile and play an important role between the police service and communities they serve. The specific proposal to reduce the number of wards members in areas such as they Arboretum and Nottingham City Centre ward would undermine our efforts to engage communities, problem solve and regenerate areas. The current model of either two or three elected members allows for broader representation of communities, provides greater resilience, improved community engagement, greater understanding of communities and creates the capacity to deal with community tensions as they arise.

-We believe that there are specific issues within the Arboretum and City Centre wards that need to be taken into consideration. Arboretum and City wards have consistently over many years had one of the highest concentrations of crime rates and anti-social behaviour in the city of Nottingham. Ward members have worked hard to build strong relationships with the police and other bodies to improve community relations and reduce crime in the area. The proposed reduction in ward members for this area put forward by LGBCE will make this more difficult to achieve.

We would ask the LGBCE to reconsider its proposal and consider the wider impact of partnership working, crime reduction, community engagement and cohesion.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the above points further either by phone or in person.

Yours sincerely



**Paddy Tipping**  
**Police and Crime Commission**



**Craig Guildford**  
**Chief Constable**