

Chief Executive's Department

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Hartlepool
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Our Ref: Your Ref:



10 December 2018

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: New Electoral Arrangements for Hartlepool Borough Council - Response to Draft Recommendations

We refer to the draft recommendations proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and have considered the detail provided. We acknowledge that if we were to provide commentary on each ward proposal it would serve no real advancement in achieving a sensible solution for Hartlepool. However, whilst members were broadly in support of the recommendations we have concentrated on certain areas and would make the following key observations.

1. General Observations

- Wynward should read as Wynyard throughout the document.
- Foggy Furze Ward - reference to Grosvenor Street, we think this should read Gloucester Street

2. Proposed Headland & Harbour Ward

We consider that the LGBCE have not taken into consideration its own guidelines in relation to natural boundaries and communities remaining together. In particular the proposal to remove Burbank community from this Ward and transfer to Burn Valley is not a suitable proposal. Since the last electoral review the community of Burbank has established clear links with the Marina, Middleton areas and considers itself as part of the coastal community.

We believe that it would be more in keeping with community identity to retain the Burbank community in the Headland & Harbour Ward and for the purposes of electoral balance leave Polling District GE in the proposed Throston Ward (see below).

3. Dyke House Area (Split between proposed Headland & Harbour and Throston Wards)

The proposal to move polling district GE to the Headland & Harbour Ward will have an adverse impact on what is an established, stable community and has seen a significant amount of regeneration and community funding in recent years.

The Dyke House area has received significant investment from a number of agencies, to build on the traditional foundations of the area and to develop a sustainable cohesive community. These include:

Dyke House Big Local - funded by Local Trust started in 2012 will see £1m invested in Dyke House over the next ten years. This is overseen by a resident led partnership.

Community Organisers Expansion Programme - funded by DCMS via CO Ltd to train up to 100 local residents in Community Organising as part Wharton Trust being a Social Action Hub.

Empowering Places Programme, funded by Power to Change, this will see an investment of around £1m to catalyse community businesses over the next 5 years as a mechanism for transforming the area.

We believe that the observations above will retain community identities and retain electoral balance throughout the Borough and look forward to receiving your final recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Gill Alexander
CHIEF EXECUTIVE