

Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral review of Pendle Borough Council

Submission for 15 three-councillor wards covering Pendle.

This number of councillors (45) and wards (15) will on the whole enable the current method of governance by 'area committees' to continue with a sufficient number of councillors on each area committee. The current Barrowford & Western Parishes and Brierfield & Reedley District Committees each comprises 6 councillors and I would think that any fewer councillors on an area committee would present a real question as to whether this format of governance for planning matters etc remains viable.

Because my main issue regarding my proposed number of Pendle Borough Councillors overall is maintaining the current method of governance by area committees, I have taken a somewhat precocious step in order to demonstrate the need for this number. As an example of how 15 wards could be organised into functioning district committees with planning powers etc. I have drawn up a cursory plan as follows:

Cursory plan

My point including this cursory plan at this stage is that if the current method of governance by area/district committee is to continue then we need enough councillors to enable it to function.

Until the time that the government of the day see fit to grant statutory planning powers to town and parish councils, district committees with non-voting co-optees from pertinent town and parish councils remains the order of the day to provide electors with the degree of localism to which they have become accustomed.

There is a statutory requirement for the Boundary Commission to ensure that the recently reviewed Lancashire County Divisions comprise town and parish council wards and it is to be hoped that if Pendle Borough Council district committees are to be maintained, similar non-statutory constraints will need to be applied to the new Borough ward boundaries.

In order to keep the resulting four district committees created from 15 three councillor wards generally the same as previously I have placed Barrowford Ward/Parish Council and Higham and Pendleside Ward/Parish Council into Nelson Area Committee with Blacko & Higherford Ward/Parish Council going to West Craven and Old Laund Booth Ward/Parish Council going to Brierfield & Reedley.

The resulting 4 district committees are as detailed below.

The 10% tolerance level required by the Local Government Boundary Commission criteria for a 3 councillor ward gives constraints on elector numbers as 3998 to 4886 for each ward.

Brierfield & Reedley Area Committee; 2 Wards; 6 Councillors; 9312 electors

Colne District Committee; 4 Wards; 12 Councillors; 17357 electors

Nelson Area Committee; 6 Wards; 18 Councillors; 25543 electors

West Craven or 'Craven Riding Committee'; 3 Wards; 9 Councillors; 14514 electors

ENDS