

By Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
cc: tim.bowden@lgbce.org.uk

Our ref: [REDACTED]
Your ref:
Date: 24 March 2016

Dear Sirs

Electoral Review of Harrogate Borough Council – Consultation Response

By way of Council resolution dated 23 March 2016 Harrogate Borough Council has authorised me to submit on its behalf the attached proposal on warding patterns for the Harrogate district.

The proposal is for 40 single member wards with a view to enabling electors to clearly understand who is accountable in their ward. The proposal also achieves a key objective for the Council being the protection of the integrity of both the Ripon and Knaresborough areas.

In summary, the proposals provide for:

- 19 single member wards for the Harrogate urban area
- 4 single member wards for Ripon
- 4 single member wards for Knaresborough
- 13 single member wards for the rural areas

When drawing up the proposal, the Council considered how it could best balance the 3 statutory criteria being: -

- the need to secure equality of representation;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- the need to secure effective and convenient local government

The Council did this by taking into account the physical features of the district with major roads, rivers or railway lines being used where possible to represent the boundary between proposed wards. Wherever possible, proposed ward boundaries have been drawn to include whole streets rather than one side being in one ward and the other in the neighbouring ward.

The proposal also recognises that a parish can be the embodiment of a local community and therefore use parish council boundary lines as building blocks for the proposed new wards. As such, divisions of parishes have been avoided so as to keep local communities intact.

The proposal was put together to achieve, in as far as possible, electoral equality being approximately 3223 electors per councillor. 39 of the proposed wards achieve the elector to councillor ratio within a variance of +/- 10% (being 2901 to 3545 forecast electors). The proposed ward which is outside of this variance is the Knaresborough Scriven and Tentergate ward (3649 forecast electors).

In the case of the proposed Knaresborough Scriven and Tentergate ward, both Scriven Parish Council and the Borough Council ward member for the area made representations to support the inclusion of the parish of Scriven within a Knaresborough ward. This was on the basis that, whilst historically Scriven may have been a separate village this has not been the case for many years and there are strong links between the communities of Scriven and Knaresborough. More specifically Scriven is dependent on the facilities in Knaresborough because the village does not have its own community hall, church, school, any health or social service provision, shop or public house. The proposal for the Knaresborough Scriven and Tentergate ward therefore recognises that exact electoral equality is unlikely to be achieved across the district and that in this case the Council is of the view that the need to reflect the identities and interests of the Scriven and Knaresborough communities should take precedence over electoral equality.

Should the Commission require any further information please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Andy West [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
JENNIFER NORTON
Head of Legal & Governance
Harrogate Borough Council
[REDACTED]

If you are replying to this communication by post, please ensure that you use the address at the bottom of the letter

WARD	EXISTING	NEW	ELECT2021	WORKINGNAME
1	2875	44	2919	Harrogate Starbeck
2	3166	131	3297	Harrogate Saltergate
3	3423	19	3442	Harrogate Oatlands
4	2690	476	3166	Harrogate Pannal
5	3302	7	3309	Harrogate Fairfax
6	2988	17	3005	Harrogate Hookstone
7	2845	341	3186	Harrogate Harlow
8	2374	711	3085	Harrogate Duchy
9	3398	21	3419	Harrogate Stray
10	3314	149	3463	Harrogate St Georges
11	3255	64	3319	Harrogate Valley Gardens
12	2939	315	3254	Harrogate Central
13	3086	259	3345	Harrogate High Harrogate
14	2926	32	2958	Harrogate New Park
15	3161	48	3209	Harrogate Coppice Valley
16	3261	3	3264	Harrogate Bilton Woodfield
17	2981	9	2990	Harrogate Old Bilton
18	2940	201	3141	Harrogate Kingsley
19	3265	2	3267	Harrogate Bilton Grange

WARD	EXISTING	NEW	ELECT2021	WORKINGNAME
1	3352	297	3649	Knaresborough Scriven and Tentergate
2	3385	78	3463	Knaresborough Castle
3	2420	806	3226	Knaresborough Eastfield
4	3211	25	3236	Knaresborough Aspin and Calcutt

WARD	EXISTING	NEW	ELECT2021	WORKINGNAME
1	3165	35	3200	Ripon Minster
2	3101	143	3244	Ripon Ure Bank
3	2950	284	3234	Ripon Spa
4	3171	180	3351	Ripon Moorside