

Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Graham Lippiatt

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Sutton Coldfield and Erdington Liberal Democrats

Comment text:

This is the submission of Sutton Coldfield and Erdington Liberal Democrats. 1. Wards must be based on existing town or suburban centres and their hinterlands (natural communities). This recognises their history and shared experience of services and facilities. 2. Wards should be as small as possible, so residents feel a sense of identity with their area and are not artificially linked to other communities from whom they are separated geographically and with whom they share few services or other public facilities. 3. We therefore favour wards represented by one or two councillors and doubt there will be areas in Sutton Coldfield or Erdington where it will be necessary to create a three-member ward. 4. For reasons of continuity and familiarity, new ward boundaries should follow existing boundaries of wards or polling districts wherever possible. 5. As Sutton Coldfield has just voted to establish a Town Council which will be based on the current boundaries of the Sutton Coldfield parliamentary constituency, new wards in Sutton Coldfield should be kept within this perimeter. 6. Our assumption is that there will be 100 councillors after reorganisation. Sutton Coldfield and Erdington are each currently served by 12 councillors. The electoral population of both places is such that each should be served by 10 councillors under any new arrangements. 7. In respect of the current Tyburn Ward in Erdington, we would propose that Castle Vale become a one member ward; that Pype Hayes become a one member ward; and that Erdington Hall and Birches Green combine to become a one member ward.

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