FAO: The Reviewing Officer

Please see attached our recommendations and opposition to some aspects of the local boundary changes in Moss Side, Manchester.

We are aware that the formal consultation periods have now ended and the publication date is drawing very close. Nevertheless, we would be grateful if you can consider our submission as we have some serious misgivings about the proposed changes.

Regards,
Jay Din (Chairperson, PLATT CLAREMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION)

The Platt Claremont Residents Association [PCRA] was unable to submit its views on the draft ward arrangements and recommendations within the allotted consultation periods: 26th July to 26th September 2016 and 29th November 2016 to 23rd January 2017, respectively.

We hope that you are, nevertheless, able to incorporate our objections regarding some aspects of the draft recommendations.

1] Loss of Cultural & Civic Partners – Whitworth Art Gallery

The PCRA opposes the loss of the Gallery from the Moss Side Ward as it is the leading cultural institution in the area and one that has national significance. It plays an important role in engaging diverse communities into the civic life of the city and is a major asset for integration and cohesion. For the diverse communities and neighbourhoods in Moss Side, the Gallery is the direct and immediate reference point for participation in culture, leisure, education and employment. For the significant number of migrant and asylum seeker households in the area, the Gallery represents an introduction to the ‘British way of life’.

2] Loss of ‘Social Capital’ – Whitworth Park

The Park acts as a strategic ‘green lung’ for communities and neighbourhoods in Moss Side to enjoy free leisure activities, which, is of great value to communities with high deprivation and low levels of disposable income.

It is a place of tremendous social interaction between residents and students. Relations between the two segments of the local demographic can, sometimes, prove fractious due to poor waste management and anti social behaviour. Groups like the ‘Friends of Whitworth Park’ engage all sections of the community for activities that benefit the Park, public realm and improved community relations.

3] Weakened Local Management – Rusholme District Centre

The PCRA has great concerns regarding the recommended proposals to split the District Centre between Moss Side and Rusholme.

The mixed commercial and residential precinct presents enormous challenges to local authority managers in terms of poor waste mismanagement, building control infringements, licensing breaches, parking violations, unauthorised street traders, vagrancy, crime and anti social behaviour. We feel that splitting the management of the District Centre between the Rusholme and Moss Side Wards introduces an unnecessary level of confusion and demarcation that undermines effective enforcement and robust management.

We recommend that the District Centre remains cohesive and under the supervision one ward management and delivery team.

Jay Din – Chairperson (PLATT CLAREMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION)