

## **Review of ward boundaries – Colchester Borough Council**

Please accept this submission on behalf of 'Hythe Forward', a community land trust (CLT) registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. CLT's were defined and recognised in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 as legitimate democratic bodies with a mandate to drive local regeneration. As such our mission is to 'make the Hythe a safe, attractive and prosperous place to live, work and do business.' Our three core aims are: the provision of affordable family housing, to stimulate commerce and enterprise and to manage/develop quality public realm.

It is the view of the Hythe Forward board that The Hythe, and indeed the wider borough, would be better served if our 'area of benefit' were to map precisely to a Colchester Borough Council ward. This would strengthen the area's governance and political representation magnifying the benefits that the CLT aims to deliver. Additionally it is worth noting that there is a Supplementary Planning Document in force (the Colne Harbour Group study) identifying the Hythe as a discrete area in terms of planning policy – recognition of its historical identity and potential as an engine for local economic growth.

Whilst we see this as the ideal outcome of the local boundary review, we also recognise that the overriding aim of the exercise is to reduce the number of wards and elected councillors. With this in mind we would like to suggest that should it not be possible to create a separate ward, the Hythe should be fully incorporated into one of the four existing wards that currently segment it. It would seem logical for this to be New Town given that it encompasses a large proportion of the residential development in the Hythe. Finally, there is an existing parish encompassing both New Town and The Hythe, so the council administrative boundary could mirror this.

We trust that this submission will be given appropriate consideration and welcome the opportunity for further discussion. Please contact Hythe Forward Vice Chair, Alistair Heron, on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]