



Our Ref: BR/01

Your Ref: AO/BR/FC

Please Ask For: Allan Oldfield

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Date: 24 October 2016

Dear Boundary Review,

RE: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION RESPONSE

I am writing at the request of the Full Council at Fylde to provide feedback on the proposed boundary review changes for the Fylde constituency and to put forward an alternative proposal that is consistent with the objectives of the review but has the full support of locally elected representatives and the people of Fylde.

Fylde council fully supports the proposal to reduce the overall number of constituencies in England, which in the North West would see the number of constituencies reduce from 75 to 68, and the constituencies containing between 70,031 and 78,507 electors.

The Boundary Commission has noted that the Blackpool constituencies are too small and should be made larger to increase the number of electors. To achieve this the Boundary Commission has proposed the inclusion of the Kilnhouse and St Leonards wards into a larger Blackpool South constituency. However, this proposal would split the town of St Annes on Sea with around a third of the electorate moving into Blackpool South constituency, this is not consistent with one of the principles the review is trying to achieve which is not to split towns. The proposal has been met with significant concern and apprehension from local residents, community groups and elected members.

A proposal has emerged that is more consistent with the principles of the review as well as more logical geographically which is to retain the wards of St Leonards and Kilnhouse within the Fylde constituency, and to move two of the Poulton-le-Fylde wards to the Blackpool North constituency. This alternative proposal would maintain the integrity of the Fylde constituency whilst ensuring the constituencies achieved the prescribed limits of electorate.

The Boundary Commission proposal would result in a Fylde constituency electorate of 72,103 the alternate proposal put forward by Fylde Council would result in an electorate of 72,193, this is consistent with the objective of the review. After discussion at Full Council a unanimous vote resolved to:

1. Reject the Boundary Commission parliamentary proposal for Fylde with respect to St Annes on Sea wards of Kilnhouse and St Leonard's;
2. Direct the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission setting out the Council's position; and

3. Submit an alternative proposal that:

- a. Reinstate the Kilnhouse and St Leonard wards within the Fylde constituency
- b. Reassign the Poulton wards of Breck, Carleton from Fylde to Blackpool North and Warbreck ward from Blackpool to Blackpool South to ensure the number in each constituency remain within the prescribed limits sought by the Boundary Commission.

I can confirm that the alternative proposal put forward has cross party support from the Full Council as well as the current MP, Mark Menzies and local residents.

If you require any further detail on this matter please contact me, I trust that you will give the alternative option appropriate consideration and replace the initial proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Oldfield', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ALLAN OLDFIELD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE