

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Annie Thompson

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Scarborough & Whitby Constituency Labour party (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: Number of seats and Boundaries of Divisions – Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh

Please see attached file from Scarborough & Whitby Constituency Labour Party

Attached Documents:

- swclp-response-to-lgbce-final.doc

Scarborough and Whitby Constituency Labour Party

Scarborough and Whitby Constituency Labour Party (CLP) represents 573 members resident in the parliamentary constituency of Scarborough & Whitby, which itself is part of the area of North Yorkshire Council (NYC). The LGBCE has recently been working on a review of the number of seats of NYC and has concluded that number should be 89 and is now working on possible changes to the boundaries of the divisions. As these matters are now out for public consultation, Scarborough & Whitby CLP, having consulted its members, would like to respond to the consultation both on the number of seats and on the boundaries - relating only to the boundaries of Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh divisions.

Number of seats

The creation in 2022 of a unitary authority for North Yorkshire reduced the number of councillors in total from 315 to a planned 89 – for Scarborough & Whitby the reduction was from 118 to 14, which means we have 12% of the previous number of councillors to cover a population of 108,700, which includes areas which are the worst 20% in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. We know from discussions with councillors locally that they are struggling to represent and assist people in these areas with multiple and complex needs who find it difficult to access or understand a large range of services. In addition, the number of councillors is simply too few to make informed decisions (especially on planning matters) on complex policy matters in an area which covers scattered villages, small towns and concentrated urban areas.

The LGBCE is working an average of 5818 electors per division to produce the number of 89 councillors and we are unable to understand the rationale for this decision, as there are other unitary authorities with recently established and much lower numbers of electors per division, Durham for example with a ratio of 1:4150 or Westmoreland & Furness with a ratio of 1:2845. We therefore recommend that the number of councillors for NYC should be at the very least 108, which would mean an average of 4600 electors per division. This is comparable to the number for Buckinghamshire (4569), which is towards the higher end of the range for other unitary authorities.

Boundaries of Divisions – Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh

On the assumption however that the number of NYC councillors will in fact be 89, in order to equalise the electors per division in the Whitby area to 5818 electors per division, we are proposing to change the boundary between the existing Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh divisions by moving it slightly to the west, thus reducing the number of electors in Whitby West division to 5663 and increasing the number of electors in Whitby Streonshalh division to 5714 electors.

This proposal transfers about 775 electors in the town centre and would move the existing boundary where it runs along the centre of Southend Gardens, Chubb Hill Road, Back St Hilda's Terrace and Skinner Street to continue instead along the dismantled railway, skirting Beeching Mews to the centre of Station Avenue and Argyle Road (the details are shown in Appendices 1 and 2, a map showing the changed boundaries and the streets and number of electors to be transferred, respectively. This proposal was supported unanimously at a full meeting of Whitby Town Council on 5 November 2024.

We would argue that this proposal reflects the interests and identities of local communities by ensuring that the boundaries of the two Whitby NYC divisions are coterminous with Whitby Town Council boundary.

NYC is proposing to equalise the number of election per division as follows - to reduce the size of the Whitby West division by removing a small area (Ruswarp ward 2) and adding it to Esk Valley and the Coast division, and to remove a larger area (Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre ward) from Esk Valley and the Coast and adding it to Streonshalh Division. This brings the number of electors per division forecast in 2030 in Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh to 5939 and 5530, compared with 6438 and 4939 for the present divisions. While this proposal brings the size of each division closer the average of 5818, Scarborough & Whitby CLP objects to it on the following grounds:-

1) The rest of the existing Whitby Streonshalh division is entirely urban and consists largely of relatively dense housing, much of it in recently developed estates and does not have shared interests with Hawsker-cum-Stainacre ward, which consists of two villages and scattered housing, and the nearest village is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away from the nearest housing in Whitby

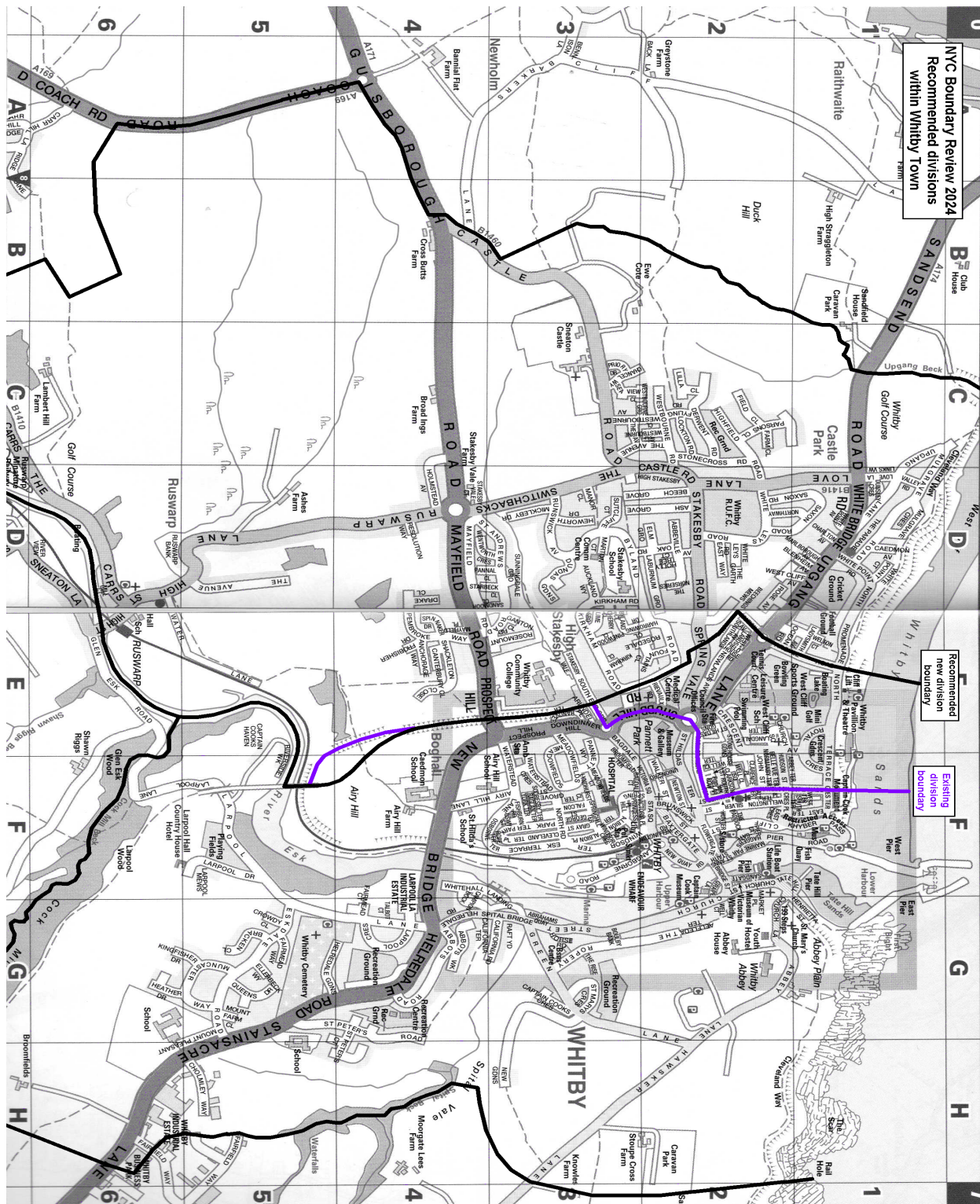
Scarborough and Whitby Constituency Labour Party

2) The proposed Whitby Streonshalh division ignores the parish boundary (that of Whitby Town Council) which runs across it.

3) Similarly, putting Ruswarp 2 ward into Esk Valley and the Coast division also ignores the parish boundary by putting a Town Council ward into a division the rest of which is outside Whitby Town.

Finally, we would argue that Whitby Town Centre is the focal point for a community identity which covers the whole of the area of the two divisions as we have proposed them.

APPENDIX 1 – MAP SHOWING CHANGED BOUNDARIES



APPENDIX 2 - STREETS

Streets to transfer from Whitby West to Whitby Streonshall:

Street	Number of electors
Southend Gardens	4
Royal Crescent	49
Church Square	29
Hudson Street	36
Esplanade	38
Crescent Avenue	117
John Street	19
Clarence Place	7
Well Close Square	35
Well Close Terrace	25
St. Hilda's Gardens	12
Back St. Hilda's	1
Stonehouse Gardens	11
Poplar Row	1
Skinner Street evens 2-36	14
Routh Walk	12
Mulgrave Place	16
Normanby Terrace	22
Havelock Place	16
Abbey Terrace	47
Langdale Terrace	29
Crescent Terrace	2
Westlands Avenue	20
Southlands Avenue	11
Newlands Avenue	12
Field House Road	5
Spring Vale	39
Upgang Lane evens 2-42	
Upgang Lane odds 1-45	109
Argyle Road evens 2-28, Berkley Mansions, Coach House, St. Joseph's Convent	37
TOTAL	775

These are 2023 electorate figures, but population changes to 2030 will make a minimal difference to the balance between the two recommended divisions.