



Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
7th Floor,
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Our Ref: TO21402

18 August 2024

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing on behalf of Allesley Parish Council, in particular my constituent [REDACTED], in regard to the new electoral arrangement for Coventry City Council.

Allesley Parish Council raised their concerns about significant changes between the draft recommendations (October 2023) and final recommendations (May 2024) of the electoral arrangements in relation to their parish boundary. From the draft recommendations, Ms Chatterton understood that Allesley Parish Council's boundary would end at the A45, above and excluding the new Eastern Green Sustainable Urban Development (SUE). The Parish Council was satisfied with this proposal. In contrast, the Eastern Green SUE is included within Allesley Parish Council's boundary in the final recommendations; The Eastern Green SUE will be included in the Eastern Green Parish Ward, one of two wards within the larger Allesley Parish Council.

Allesley Parish Council object to the inclusion of the new Eastern Green SUE within their boundary as they feel their rural parish council would struggle to meet the needs of this new urban development. They further believe the decision to include the Eastern Green SUE within their parish boundary demonstrates a lack of understanding from the Local Government Boundary Commission of the locality.

After reviewing the draft recommendations and final recommendations attached, I have not been able to identify the changes mentioned by my constituent. It appears both recommendations include the SUE in the Eastern Green Parish Ward, part of the larger Allesley Parish Council.

In order to best support my constituents, I ask for your assistance in clarifying the following:

- At which point prior to the final recommendations (consultation, submission from interested parties or draft recommendations) was the option considered to exclude the Eastern Green SUE from Allesley Parish Council's boundary?
- For what reasons did the Local Government Boundary Commission then alternatively propose the Eastern Green SUE be included within Allesley Parish Council, as one of two parish wards?
- What consultation did the Local Government Boundary Commission undertake with Allesley Parish Council prior to the final recommendations?

Constituency Office:

Unite the Union, Short Street, Coventry, CV1 2LS
Email: taiwo.owatemi.mp@parliament.uk | Tel: 02477 672089
Website: www.taiwoowatemi.com

- What consideration, if any, was given to challenges which would arise for Allesley Parish Council as a rural parish in supporting the needs of an urban development?

In addition, I wish to make a FOI request to obtain a copy of Allesley Parish Council's submissions to the Local Government and Boundary Commission in regard to the new electoral arrangements for Coventry City Council. I would be grateful if this documentation could be supplied at your nearest possible convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI Ref: 87759/24

Thank you for your request for information, dated 18 August 2024, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

A copy of Allesley Parish Council's submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission in regard to the new electoral arrangements for Coventry City Council.

Response:

The information requested under FOI is publically available on the website.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence.

If you are unhappy with the response or the way in which your request was dealt with and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Kathryn Trower
Director of Corporate Services
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Kind regards

Mark Cooper

Taiwo Owatemi MP
taiwo.owatemi.mp@parliament.uk
19 August 2024

Dear Ms Owatemi,

Your ref: TO21402

Electoral review of Coventry City Council

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2024 on behalf of Allesley Parish Council. I'm sorry that the Parish Council has concerns relating to our final recommendations for Coventry City Council, and I will seek to address these in turn.

The Commission's draft recommendations, which were published in October 2023 and are available [here](#), proposed that the Eastern Green SUE be included in the Commission's proposed Woodlands ward, with the remainder of Allesley parish remaining in Bablake ward. Our final recommendations, which were published in May 2024 and are available [here](#), made no change to our draft recommendations for this area.

In your letter, you mention that Allesley Parish Council believed that the draft proposals meant that its parish boundary would end at the A45 road; in fact, it was the proposed district ward that was to end at this boundary. The Commission has no power to amend the external boundaries of parishes, and we sought to explain this in response to the Parish Council's submission in our final recommendations report, at paragraphs 51-57.

The power to amend parish council boundaries is solely the preserve of the local authority by means of a Community Governance Review (CGR). As a result, the Eastern Green SUE will remain part of Allesley Parish Council until such time as Coventry City Council completes a CGR to amend the external boundary and makes an order to enact this change.

If we divide a parish between city wards, as is the case with Allesley parish, we are required to propose parish wards for that parish. We did this for Allesley Parish Council in both our draft and final recommendations and provided the parish with two parish wards, each with a number of parish councillors based on a 5-year forecast of electors. Any parish warding can be superseded by an order made by the City Council following a Community Governance Review. Any such changes would need the consent of the Commission under the legislation.

In respect of our consultation process, Allesley Parish Council, along with other parish councils in the city, were named as key stakeholders in our preliminary discussions with the City Council. The Parish Council would therefore have received a letter at the start of each stage of our review process with details of how to make a submission to the Commission. As we provided parish warding for Allesley Parish Council under our draft and final recommendations, it also received a letter from the Commission individually tailored to the Council, with a map of our proposed parish wards.

I note that you request a copy of the Parish Council's submission under FOI legislation. The Commission has a commitment to transparency and we publish all submissions we receive on our website. The submission received from Allesley Parish Council can be found on our website [here](#).

I hope that this response answers the queries you have raised in your letter.

In terms of next steps, we plan to lay a draft Order in Parliament to implement our recommendations for Coventry City Council this autumn. We will notify you when this happens.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspect of this or the Commission's final recommendations further, I would be very happy to do so - please contact Hayley Meachin, the Commission's Communications & Engagement Manager (hayley.meachin@lgbce.org.uk or 0330 500 1250).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ailsa Irvine', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ailsa Irvine
Chief Executive
ailsa.irvine@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1291