

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my comments re the April 2025 draft report for the reorganisation of North Yorkshire Council Boundaries.

Please can you confirm receipt.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

- personal-submission-to-boundary-review.docx

6th June 2025

Review Officer (North Yorkshire)
LGBCE
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Road
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Dear Sirs,

Ref: New Electoral Arrangements for North Yorkshire Council –draft report dated April 2025

I wish to furnish comments having now studied the draft report of the Boundary Commission (April 2025).

I note the remit of the Boundary Commission, viz:

‘This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The divisions in North Yorkshire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.***
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across North Yorkshire.’***

I note that Richmond Town Council have previously responded to the invitation to express their view which I fully endorse, i.e. it should remain as 90 councillors.

I note your draft proposals from the Boundary Commission report:

***North Yorkshire should be represented by 89 councillors, one fewer than there are now.
North Yorkshire should have 87 divisions, two fewer than there are now.
The boundaries of most divisions should change.***

I was concerned to read the opening statement about Richmond (Page 32 / para 132) that ***‘The town of Richmond is too large, in terms of electorate, to be represented by a single-councillor division. Therefore, part of the town must be included in an adjacent division alongside some rural parishes.’*** This is certainly not the considered view of the majority of Richmond residents – the town has been served well by a single North Yorkshire Councillor since the reorganisation of local Government following the 1974 Local Government Act and the present elected North Yorkshire Councillor has been in post for 20 years with vast experience and knowledge of the three wards that comprise the electoral division of Richmond. Indeed, the pressures come not from the size of the electorate but from the inevitable disruption caused by the new unitary local government structure put in place in 2021. Once the new unitary structure is finally bedded down, it will enable our representative to carry out their functions and responsibilities far more easily.

I was **appalled** to read the submission from North Yorkshire Council as to how the town of Richmond should be divided:

‘The Council proposed that most of Richmond be combined with the parishes of Aske and Gilling with Hartforth & Sedbury to form a Richmond & Gilling West division. Meanwhile, the eastern part of the town would be grouped with several adjoining parishes in a Richmond East & Scotch Corner division.’

In effect, this proposal would totally destroy the community identity of Richmond Town and would fragment local cohesion. I note that the Boundary Commission have chosen not to proceed with the North Yorkshire Council submission (however I have recently seen a press report that North Yorkshire Council are concerned that the Boundary Commission draft report ***‘differs significantly from what the authority had suggested for the reorganisation’*** and are set to submit a fresh list. If that new submission proposes similar changes to Richmond as advanced in their first submission, there will be strong opposition to such a proposal).

In considering the Boundary Commission proposal, I note the criteria that the Commission use in their deliberations:

‘When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- **Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.**
- **Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.**
- **Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.**

‘Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.’

On this basis, I am of the strong opinion that the recommendation of the Liberal Democrats is similarly flawed. Your draft report states:

‘After careful consideration, we have largely based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrats’ proposals for Richmond and the surrounding area, as we determined from our virtual tour of the area that they better align with our statutory criteria. The community-based evidence they provided persuaded us that their proposed boundaries would create well-connected divisions with shared amenities.’

It is disappointing that the draft report April 2025 published by the Commission does not contain the full submission from the Liberal Democrats and it is necessary to look elsewhere on the Commission website for the details of that proposal. They are as follows:

‘Re: North Yorkshire Boundary Review

Statement of Support from Richmond & Northallerton Liberal Democrats for proposal submitted by Cllr. Philip Broadbank

5th December 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

The Richmond & Northallerton constituency branch of the Liberal Democrats wish to provide a

Statement of Support for the North Yorkshire boundary proposal submitted by Cllr. Philip Broadbank.

As a member of the working group charged with shaping North Yorkshire Council's boundary submission, Cllr. Broadbank approached our team to get a local perspective on the community connections across our constituency. We were, of course, delighted to help.

While the proposal submitted by North Yorkshire Council is a solid piece of work, we believe the

way they have chosen to divide Richmond and its neighbouring communities requires an urgent

rethink. Cllr. Broadbank shares our concern and so has submitted an alternative proposal of his

own for all 89 divisions across the county. His version includes what we believe to a much more logical way of dividing up the Richmond area. We believe Cllr. Broadbank's solution better serves residents as it respects existing community connections and use of amenities and uses existing boundaries such as rivers and key roads and natural boundaries. Therefore, we are keen

for this Statement of Support to be considered as part of his submission.

Below is an outline of the differences each of these options presents, plus our reasons for preferring Option B, Cllr. Broadbank's submission.

We would appreciate your time in considering our point of view and are happy to provide more details and examples as required.

Yours faithfully

Clive World

Cllr. Clive World

*(Incoming Chair of Richmond & Northallerton Lib Dems
and Richmond Town Councillor)*

And this is their Option B:

PLAN B: OUR PREFERRED OPTION: Cllr Broadbank's Submission

Richmond (5911)

Transfer approx. 1000 electors from the North ward in Richmond town to a revised North Richmondshire ward. The parish of St Martins (207 voters) is also transferred from the existing

Hipswell and Colburn division. The rest of Richmond town makes up this revised Richmond ward

North Richmondshire (5598)

To include approx. 1000 voters from the existing North ward in the Richmond town division plus

the parishes of Newsham (296), Dalton (162), Gayles (116), Ravensworth (215), Kirby Hill (50), Whashton (116), Aske (85), Gilling West (490), Melsonby (656), Caldwell (125), Carkin (44), East

and West Layton (116), Eppleby (234), Forcett (78), Stanwick St John (115), Aldborough St John (359), Cliffe (25), Manfield (232), Barton (704), Skeeby (344) and Newton Morrell (36)

The proposal to remove 1000 residents from North Ward to the North Richmondshire area totally contradicts the consideration of **'reflecting community identity'** – I note the Boundary Commission statement that the research was based on **'a virtual tour of North Yorkshire in**

order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed’.

The map provided with the draft report shows the flaw in this suggestion – in essence residents of North Ward are physically connected to all other areas of the town whereas between them and the proposed ‘move’ to North Richmondshire division there are nearly 3 miles of farmland, a golf course and a Georgian Country House with parkland which is grade 1 listed (therefore no building development) . It is insensible to believe that residents of North Ward would have any synergy with the small rural communities to the north of the town. The issues that residents in North Ward have about services and amenities are based strongly on RICHMOND TOWN. **It is essential that a Boundary Commission representative makes a physical visit to Richmond to appreciate the landscape.**

The comment in the Liberal Democrat submission that ‘..... ***Cllr. Broadbank’s solution better serves residents as it respects existing community connections and use of amenities and uses existing boundaries such as rivers and key roads and natural boundaries’*** fails to respect the strong community connection North ward has to the town of Richmond and the second proposal that the parish of St Martins move into Richmond ignores the physical barrier of the River Swale which is a natural boundary between Richmond and the parish.

With regard to the criteria of ‘providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government’, the Lib Dem proposal which the Boundary Commission are recommending will mean that in effect two North Yorkshire Cllrs will be serving the geographical entity of Richmond Town which will cause problems when it comes to the next North Yorkshire Council elections as it will mean that in effect North Ward itself will be split into two divisions (total size of North Ward is larger than 1000) and will have to be distinguished from the rest of Richmond for voting papers and stations. Also, if this proposal were to come into effect before the next North Yorkshire elections, those 1000 residents of North Ward being moved into the North Richmondshire will in effect be represented by a Councillor who they did not vote for and as recent press reports will attest, is not in sync with issues concerning Richmond Town. All residents of North Ward deserve to be served by a North Yorkshire Councillor who is purely focused on Richmond Town, not villages to the north which have entirely different needs.

It will also mean for Richmond Town Council that they will require the presence at full Council Meetings of **two North Yorkshire Councillors** to reply to questions related to North Yorkshire Council.

To summarise, it is my view that it is much more sensible to maintain the community of Richmond as one entity. The town is heavily urbanised and has very little space for new builds. The Town population will remain static for years. Economically, Richmond will be better served by North Yorkshire Council by remaining a single division. Splitting the Town will lead to confusion with a sizeable portion of our population left wondering what, if anything, they have in common with the rural parishes to the north.

Yours Faithfully,



