

New Electoral Arrangements

Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Proposals

Link to website for detailed proposals:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/9913>

New Ward proposals for BANES

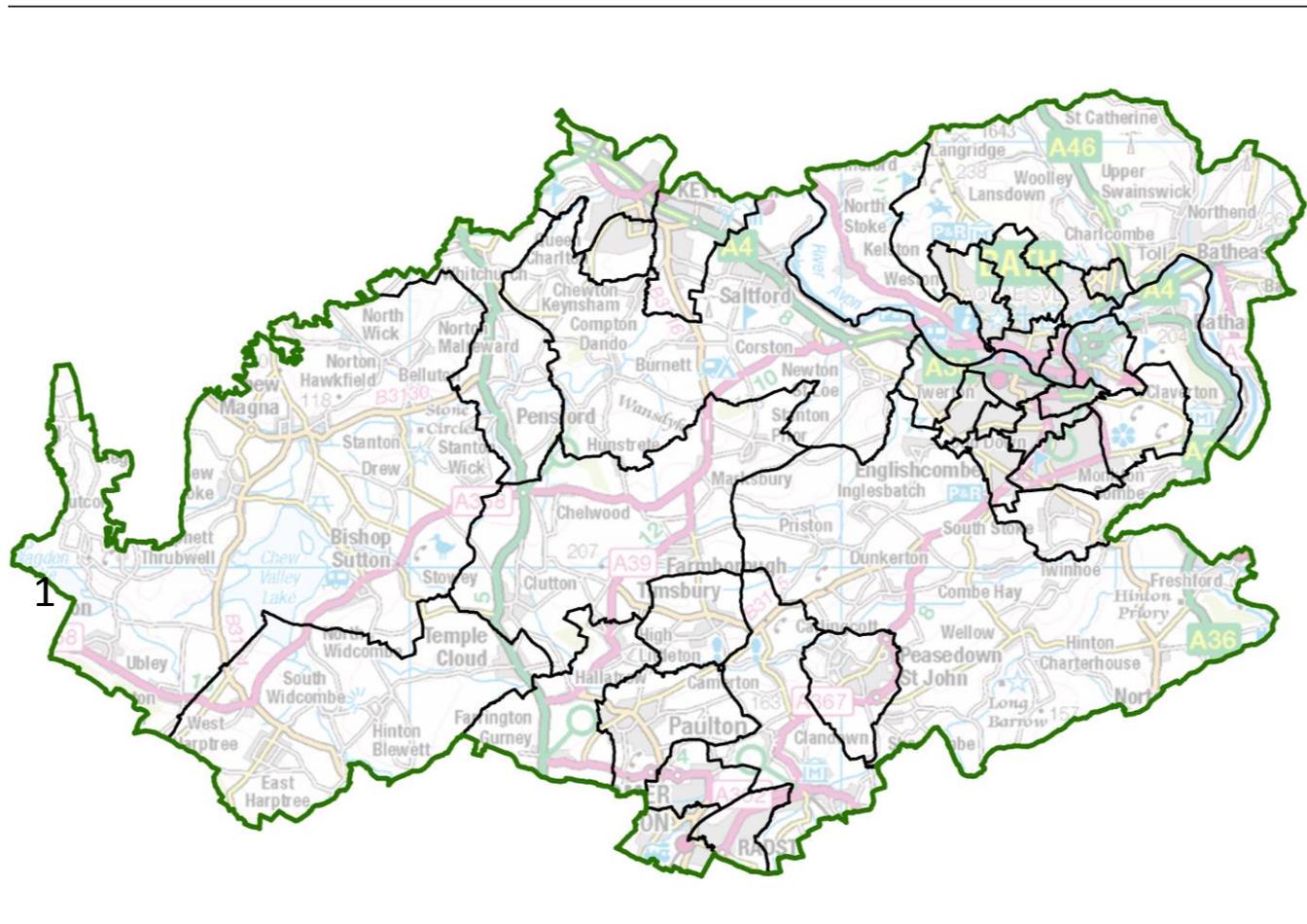
- Objectives:
 - Reduce the number of Councillors in BANES to 59 (from 66), considering;
 - Electoral Equality
 - Community Identity
 - Effective & Convenient Local Government

Underlying Principles

- Electoral Equality
 - Each Councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community Identity
 - Reflects community interests, identities and links
 - Active Community Groups
 - Shared facilities (shops, schools, services)
 - Transport links
 - Shared interests in an area
- Effective local government
 - Strong easily identifiable boundaries
 - Not too small or too large
 - Appropriate ward name

Overview of Bath proposals

Ward	Cllrs
Abbey	1
Kingsmead	2
Lansdown	1
Larkhall	1
Newbridge	2
Walcot	2
Western	2
Bathwick	1
Claverton Down	1
Combe Down	1
Widcombe	1
Lyncombe	1
Moorlands	1
Odd Down	2
Oldfield Park	3
Southdown	2
Twerton	2



Key Question for the Forum

1. Do the draft proposals for the City of Bath meet the stated objectives and principles? **NO**
2. Should the Bath City Forum seek to comment on the draft proposals? **YES**

Note:

- The suggestion is that we should comment on the proposals for City-wide issues but not for individual wards.
- We remain politically neutral on this.
- Other groups, political and residents are expected to comment on detailed ward proposals separately.

Proposed submission points

- The following slide suggests points of overall principle that the Bath City Forum might wish to submit to the Boundary Commission.
- Other points may be added after the Forum discussion

Proposed Submission Points

Comment	Basis
The proposals seem skewed towards electoral equality rather than community identity	1 Electoral equality can be achieved without breaking up communities
It is vital that the City boundary (un-parished boundary) is not breached	1 Community Identity 2 Effective local government 3 Obscures parish funding arrangements 4 Newbridge ward does this
The University is distorting the position for the South of Bath. The proposed ward for Claverton Down has no real basis.	1 University better to stay with Bathwick 2 Claverton Down makes no sense in terms of community or effective government
Wards should ideally have 2 councillors in the City. (not 1 – nine wards or 3 – one ward)	1 Two Cllrs allow for more effective representation 2 Avoids small or large wards
Strong communities should not be split up or areas isolated outside from their natural links	1 Community identity 2 Community cohesion 3 E.g. Widcombe, Combe Down, Oldfield Park, Bathwick or Lansdown (Cavendish Rd split)
Strong boundaries should be recognised	1 River, Railway, Canal major roads, historic parish boundaries

Recommendation

- That the Bath City Forum responds to the consultation covering the points identified on slide 7 (as agreed or amended at the meeting)
- That the BCF invites the Commission to revisit its proposals for Bath by:
 - Staying within the City boundary
 - Placing a greater emphasis on community identity and cohesion (noting submissions from local groups and residents)
 - Reconsidering the position for the University / Claverton Down
 - Seeking for wards to be predominantly with 2 Cllrs
- That the Forum requests the Chair writes and signs a letter seeking the above changes.