

Submission to the Boundary Commission for England third period of consultation: **Yorkshire & The Humber**

INTRODUCTION

The Liberal Democrats support the vast majority of the Boundary Commission for England's second draft in Yorkshire, and thank the assistant commissioners for taking on board many of our criticisms of the first draft. We believe this draft better reflects the communities in Yorkshire and provides a more coherent structure for reorganisation of their parliamentary boundaries. We therefore limit our response to this second draft to the small proportion of seats where we feel improvement can still be made. This is limited to four seats in and around Leeds.

COUNTER-PROPOSALS

Seat 31: Otley

The problem:

We believe the Boundary Commission's proposal for Otley unnecessarily divides several communities, including:

Holt Park and Tinshill:

These communities cross the boundary of the Weetwood and Adel & Wharfedale wards of Leeds City Council. If those two wards were separated into two different constituencies (as per the Boundary Commission's proposals) a natural community, which shares facilities such as schools and the Holt Park Centre, would be divided.

We argued in our original submission that Weetwood and Adel & Wharfedale wards should remain in the same constituency, to prevent the communities of Holt Park and Tinshill being divided.

Harewood Parish:

The parish of Harewood currently crosses the boundary of the Alwoodley and Harewood wards of Leeds City Council. It was traditionally all included within the old North ward and, until 2010 was united in the same parliamentary constituency (Leeds North East). Alwoodley and Harewood wards should be contained within the same constituency, to reunite the Harewood parish. It would also reunite the A61 corridor and reconnect Alwoodley with Shadwell, which traditionally form the same community.

As we argued in our original submission, Adel & Wharfedale ward should not be in the same seat as Alwoodley ward. There is a geographical divide (Adel Beck) that divides them at the historic Adel woods.

Our proposed change:

Substitute Alwoodley ward for Weetwood ward:

| Otley | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Adel & Wharfedale | Leeds | 15,863 |
| Guiselley & Rawdon | Leeds | 17,491 |
| Otley & Yeadon | Leeds | 17,477 |
| Weetwood | Leeds | 16,920 |
| Wharfedale | Bradford | 9,108 |
| | ELECTORATE | 76,859 |
| | No of split wards | 0 |

Seat 27: Leeds North

The problem:

We believe the Boundary Commission's proposal for Leeds North would unnecessarily divide several communities, including:

Holt Park and Tinshill:

As per the arguments laid out above under the Otley seat.

Moortown and Chapel Allerton:

Moortown and Chapel Allerton have been a part of the same parliamentary constituency for over forty years. They have traditionally been seen as part of the same community. Chapel Allerton ward includes many areas that have been traditionally home to immigrant populations to the city (including Chapeltown). Many families have moved out to Moortown, but still use facilities in the Chapel Allerton area and there are strong family links for many. They are also united by Leeds City Council's North East (Inner) Area Committee.

The proposals from the Boundary Commission would unnecessarily divide this community and cut across the A61, Scott Hall Road corridor into Leeds.

Our proposed change:

Substitute Weetwood ward for Chapel Allerton ward:

| Leeds North | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Chapel Allerton | Leeds | 16,661 |
| Headingley | Leeds | 14,787 |
| Hyde Park & Woodhouse | Leeds | 14,949 |
| Kirkstall | Leeds | 15,778 |
| Moortown | Leeds | 17,105 |
| | ELECTORATE | 79,280 |
| | No of split wards | 0 |

Seat 25: Leeds East

The problem:

We believe the Boundary Commission's proposal for Leeds North would unnecessarily divide several communities, including:

Moortown and Chapel Allerton:

As per the arguments laid out above under the Otley seat.

Cross Gates:

The community of Cross Gates currently overlaps across the boundary of the Cross Gates & Whinmoor and Killingbeck & Seacroft wards. They have traditionally both been in the same constituency (Leeds East) and would have continued to be so under the Boundary Commission's original proposals (for their proposed new Leeds North East constituency).

These new proposals divide this community, which shares the same facilities, including the Cross Gates Shopping centre and the railway station. It would instead put a large section of Cross Gates into the same constituency as towns such as Wetherby, which it has nothing in common with.

Our proposed change:

Substitute Chapel Allerton ward for Cross Gates & Whinmoor ward:

| Leeds East | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Burmantofts & Richmond Hill | Leeds | 14,500 |
| Cross Gates & Whinmoor | Leeds | 17,210 |
| Gipton & Harehills | Leeds | 14,935 |
| Killingbeck & Seacroft | Leeds | 16,527 |
| Roundhay | Leeds | 17,032 |
| | ELECTORATE | 80,204 |
| | No of split wards | 0 |

Seat 14: Elmet

The problem:

We believe the Boundary Commission's proposal for Leeds North would unnecessarily divide several communities, including:

Harewood Parish:

As per the arguments laid out above under the Otley seat.

Cross Gates:

As per the arguments laid out above under the Leeds East seat.

Our proposal:

Substitute Cross Gates & Whinmoor ward for Alwoodley ward:

| Elmet | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Alwoodley | Leeds | 17,471 |
| Garforth & Swillington | Leeds | 15,945 |
| Harewood | Leeds | 14,786 |
| Temple Newsam | Leeds | 16,070 |
| Wetherby | Leeds | 15,409 |
| | ELECTORATE | 79,681 |
| | No of split wards | 0 |

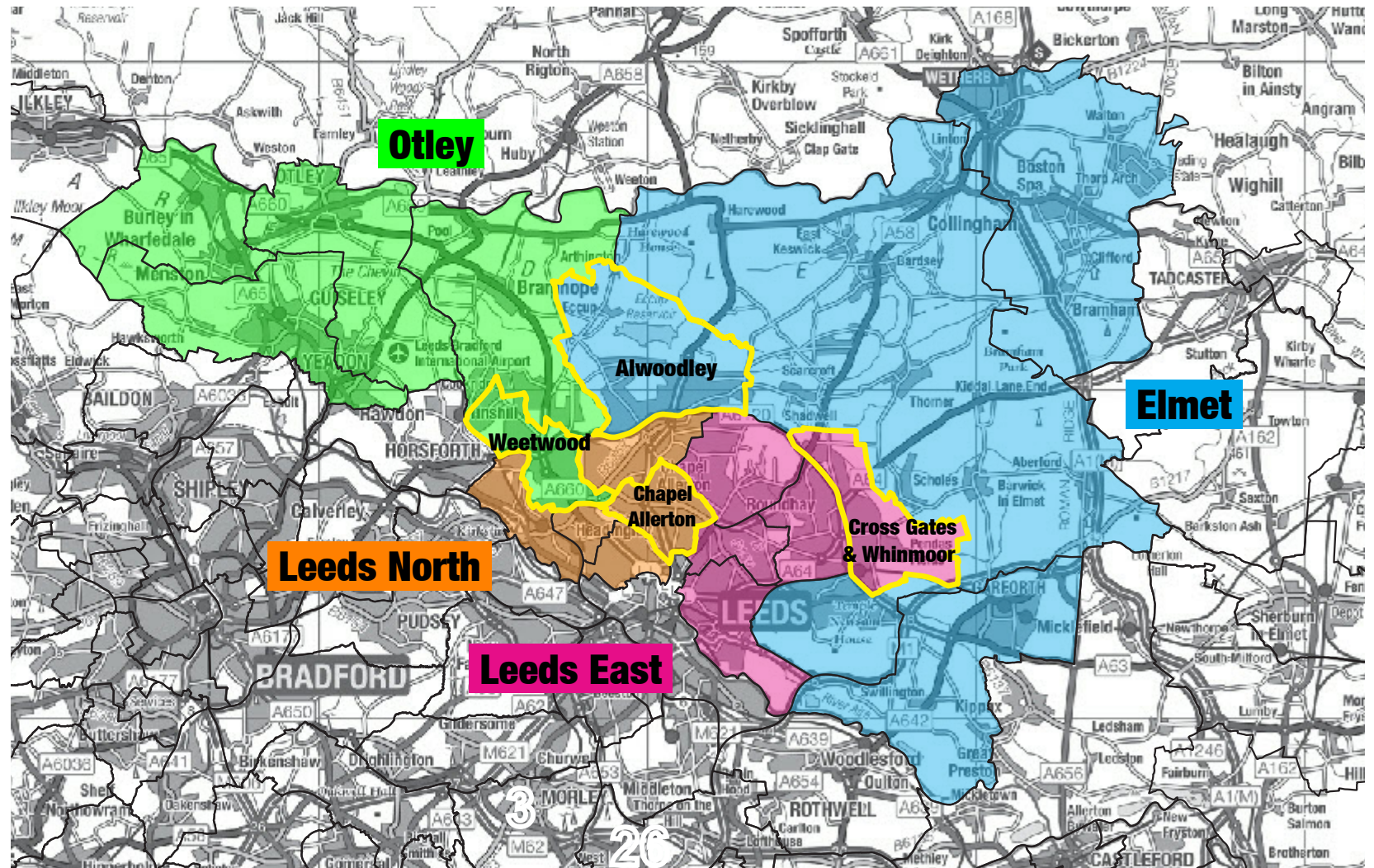
Liberal Democrats suggested changes to the Boundary Commission's revised proposals in Leeds:

These changes would involve moving four Leeds wards into different proposed new seats. These wards are highlighted with a yellow border.

The four wards are:

Alwoodley
Weetwood
Chapel Allerton
Cross Gates & Whinmoor

The proposed new seats are coloured in, with the details around numbers below.



Otley

(minus Alwoodley, plus Weetwood)

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Adel and Wharfedale | 15,863 | Chapel Allerton | 16,661 |
| Guiselley and Rawdon | 17,491 | Headingley | 14,787 |
| Otley and Yeadon | 17,477 | Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 14,949 |
| Weetwood | 16,920 | Kirkstall | 15,778 |
| Wharfedale | 9,108 | Moortown | 17,105 |

Leeds North

(minus Weetwood, plus Chapel Allerton)

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Chapel Allerton | 16,661 |
| Headingley | 14,787 |
| Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 14,949 |
| Kirkstall | 15,778 |
| Moortown | 17,105 |

Leeds East

(minus Chapel Allerton, plus Cross Gates & Whinmoor)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Burmantofts and Richmond Hill | 14,500 |
| Cross Gates and Whinmoor | 17,210 |
| Gipton and Harehills | 14,935 |
| Killingbeck and Seacroft | 16,527 |
| Roundhay | 17,032 |

Elmet

(minus Cross Gates & Whinmoor, plus Alwoodley)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Alwoodley | 17,471 |
| Garforth and Swillington | 15,945 |
| Harewood | 14,786 |
| Temple Newsam | 16,070 |
| Wetherby | 15,409 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total | 76,859 | Total | 79,280 | Total |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 80,204 | Total | 79,681 |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|