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Governance

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5 March, 2013

Dear Simon

Electoral Review of Lancaster

Please find the City Council's response to the LGBCE's next stage of the Electoral Review process, to gather information for a new pattern of warding arrangements, set out below:-

In March 2011, the City Council resolved to request an electoral review of the district specifically to rectify the electoral imbalance in Ellel Ward. Figures at that time showed that the Councillors in Ellel Ward represented 45% more electors than the city average.

It is still the case that the City Council sees the electoral imbalance in Ellel Ward as the most important issue to be addressed by the review process. The Council would like this to be rectified having mind to the communities in that ward and the University Ward adjoining it.

The imbalance has occurred due to developments at Lancaster University, where accommodation blocks to house large numbers of students were built within the boundary of Ellel ward. Since the occupants of these blocks are students, the Council believes they are more likely to identify with the community of the University Ward than the community of Ellel. Therefore a solution which would place those accommodation blocks in University Ward would seem more satisfactory than one which simply increased the number of Councillors in Ellel Ward from 2 to 3.

Please note that this is a response on behalf of the City Council. Further responses may be submitted from the political groups represented on the Council or from individual Councillors.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Chambers
Democratic Services Manager