

LGD: North West

Submitted by: Councillor Jarleth McNulty

Organisation: Strabane District Council

"Has the Boundaries Commission considered the impact of changing the ward boundaries on the deprivation indices and targeting social need figures currently inherent within each ward?

For example - I draw your attention to the East Ward within Strabane District. It is one of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. Under the new proposals this ward will be split between Strabane North and Knockavoe. More specifically, a section of the Drumrallagh housing estate has been split between these two wards. A similar trend can be seen in the village of Glebe, which is proposed to be split within the Finn and the Sion Mills wards. Undoubtedly, this will skew the deprivation figures of any new ward and result in pockets of deprivation in areas that may be deemed as affluent.

Clearly, this will have a significant impact on the ability to identify deprivation and leverage resources thus to assist those suffering from social exclusion in the medium to long term.

I would appreciate it if the Commission could clarify if any consideration has been given to the above and if so what is being done to address this issue presented within the proposed changes. "