

I am commenting in my capacity as a Liverpool City Councillor representing Central. I have been a Councillor representing this ward since its inception in 2004 and have lived in the City Centre since 2003.

My comments are in relation to the following proposed wards, which contain part of the existing Central – Waterfront South, City Centre North, Brownlow Hill, Paddington, Kensington and Fairfield and Ropewalks.

I support the draft recommendations for Waterfront South, City Centre North, Brownlow Hill and Kensington and Fairfield. In my view, these recommendations meet the statutory criteria, especially in relation to reflecting natural communities. The northern parts of the City Centre are separate from the Waterfront and southern parts of the City Centre. The Fabric District and Bullring area share links in the proposed Brownlow Hill ward and Kensington Fields has a stronger connection to the rest of Kensington than it does with the City Centre.

It is proposed in the draft recommendations that a small part of the current Central, the area between Mount Pleasant and Renshaw Street becomes part of a new single-member Ropewalks ward. It makes sense for this area not to be part of either City Centre North or Brownlow Hill both on grounds of electoral equality and, more importantly, on grounds on natural communities. Residents living here look south and share links with the Bold Street and Duke Street areas and, indeed, beyond towards L1 and the Baltic. It would, in my view, make much more sense, in terms of natural communities and providing for efficient local government, to include this area and the whole of the proposed Ropewalks ward in an expanded three-member City Centre South ward.

The proposed Ropewalks ward is very tightly drawn. It is the geographically the smallest ward proposed in the draft recommendations. For residents living here, it is impossible to live your life within this ward. Residents will use coffee shops, supermarkets, pubs, schools, green spaces etc outside of the narrowly drawn Ropewalks ward beyond into City Centre South. This is especially the case for primary schools. There is an increasing number of families with primary-school aged children living in the proposed Ropewalks ward and indeed across the City Centre. These children tend to use schools like LIPA Primary and St Vincent's Primary in City Centre South.

Councillor Nick Small