



South Cambridgeshire District

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Comment text:

When we were asked if we would support a significant reduction in councillor numbers and a move to all up elections it was on the clear understanding that the majority of wards would be single member wards. This was what the representatives from the BC told us was the most desirable model when they attended a presentation held at South Cambs and this is what was unanimously supported by the Council across all political groups. The proposal from the Council, which was worked on by a cross party group of councillors, was for mainly single member wards. Now that we see the draft proposal which includes a significant number of 2 and 3 member wards I feel that I, my group and all councillors were completely misled. If we had thought for a moment that we would end up with such a large number of multi member wards I would NEVER have supported the move to all up elections. They are unpopular with members and unpopular with our supporters. The result will undoubtedly be that we will find it even harder than we already do to recruit people willing to stand for election. The challenges of the job as it is are so great that our council is made up largely of retired, wealthy, white, middle class people who cannot truly represent ALL of the people living in the district. By giving members enormous wards to serve you will just discourage anyone who has other commitments such as work, being a carer, having a family or who has their own health problems or mobility problems from standing for election. We will end up with an even narrower group of people representing our residents who continue to become more diverse and who are experiencing a wider range of life challenges. We are already being faced with members who say that they will not stand again as the demands on their time will be just too great for them to be able to do the job well. PLEASE think again about redrafting the proposal to fit in with the original expectation of mainly single member wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded