

Note of meeting at Shepway District Council, 13 September 2012

Attendees from LGBCE: Sir Tony Redmond, William Morrison

Attendee from SDC: Councillor Robert Bliss, Leader

Cllr Bliss informed us that he had favoured a reduction in council size to 30, to make financial savings, and to prepare for any future implementation of unitary authorities in Kent, which would necessitate a reduction in councillors.

Cllr Bliss also told us that full Council had rejected the large reduction, and that a compromise figure of 38 had been reached, and that the Council (and he himself) had voted it through.

Sir Tony informed Cllr Bliss that SDC's submission favouring 38 members did not contain sufficient justification for the Commission to propose such a reduction. Cllr Bliss agreed that his officers would provide the Commission with further rationale for a reduction to 38.