Jeremy Wing

Member of the public

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"South Ribble Borough Council is relatively small in terms of both its number of residents and number of its employed staff. It should also be borne in mind that all of the Borough is covered by councillors from Lancashire County Council while a significant proportion of the Borough is also covered by active Town and Parish councils meaning three lots of councillors in total.

There are currently 55 councillors covering 27 wards. Based on my personal observation, the vast majority of these councillors do not participate by way of speaking at full Council Meetings while committee membership is bloated and passage business is not impaired by significant member absences. Against this background, South Ribble's proposal for a reduction of just 5 members, giving 50 in total, is singularly unimaginative and ignores the potential for large cost savings.

My proposal is for around 25 councillors serving single member wards. These wards would be largely based on existing ones but with some internal boundary changes to equalise the Councillor:Resident ratio.

My proposal would reduce costs significantly in terms of direct member allowances and also the cost of administrative support to members. I do not believe that my proposal would introduce any level of "'democratic deficit"' or lack of representation as it would simply formalise the current de facto position whereby many existing members are relatively inactive."