

Porter, Johanna

From: Egan, Helen
Sent: 28 January 2015 15:52
To: Porter, Johanna
Subject: FW: Response to the Boundary Commission review re Lincolnshire County Council

Hi Jo,

Please see below a submission for Lincolnshire.

Helen

-----Original Message-----

From: CllrH Marfleet [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2015 14:36
To: Reviews@
Cc: CllrM Hill
Subject: Response to the Boundary Commission review re Lincolnshire County Council

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of the Conservative group & Administration Group (Conservatives, Lib Dems and 3 x Independents) in support of having 71 councillors in future for Lincolnshire County Council.

Decreasing to 71 would alter the average electors per councillor from 7226 to 7837 which would seem reasonable especially compared to our statistical neighbours who have an average of 8053.

Technology has made a huge impact on working practices and communications since the last review in 1999 both for councillors and members of the public. All councillors are now issued with iPads or laptops which makes interaction much easier and possible remotely and quickly. Nearly all parish councils, community groups etc and most of the public are accessible online which saves travelling much of the time.

Although the county is large geographically, it is unusual in having an even spread of settlements which means there is a comprehensive road network of 5500 miles. So within a rural division, there is normally a convenient road if not a dualled version. Most parish councils and meetings are active and are a good focal point.

There are currently some Divisions which are large geographically and have nearly 8,000 electorate, those members report that they can effectively represent such an area.

Currently there are 10 executive members but we have operated in the past with 9 and could with fewer. The same is true of scrutiny and other committees which would address the workload issue.

Moving to a commissioning model will also change the way councillors operate and probably be less time consuming for members and as the council's workforce continues to shrink the direct management role will lessen for officers and equally member oversight.

Reducing members will also generate savings and morally place us on a similar footing as a reducing officer corps. Statistically, the least variation from the mean in terms of electorate representation is also 71 members.

All of the above point to 71 being the most desirable number of members for the next period.

Please can you confirm receipt of this email as acknowledgement of our response.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Hugo Marfleet

Group Secretary to the Conservatives & Administration Group Lincolnshire County Council