

I wish to put forward the case to maintain multi-member wards in Nottingham. A reason that I am strongly against the suggestion of single-member wards is that you have selected them in inner city areas of Nottingham where profound problems make collaborative working much more important. Much of our inner city contains an aging housing stock which is largely in the hands of private investors and rented to a transient population. Our communities have suffered as a result and we have had to introduce significant changes in regulations and working practices to protect quality of life issues. These changes have only been possible because councillors have worked together. These often distressing issues put emotional and physical pressure on councillors. Colleagues who can discuss the issues jointly will be more successful in coping with this pressure.

Multi-member wards are also vital to always ensure the electorate has a dependable voice to speak for them. The role of a councillor is one that often attracts elderly males. As well as illness problems that this cohort is prone to, there can be problems engaging with the female half of the electorate. There are also practical considerations that councillors will need some cover during their periods of vacation.

I urge you to reconsider the proposals for single-member wards.

Cllr Sarah Piper