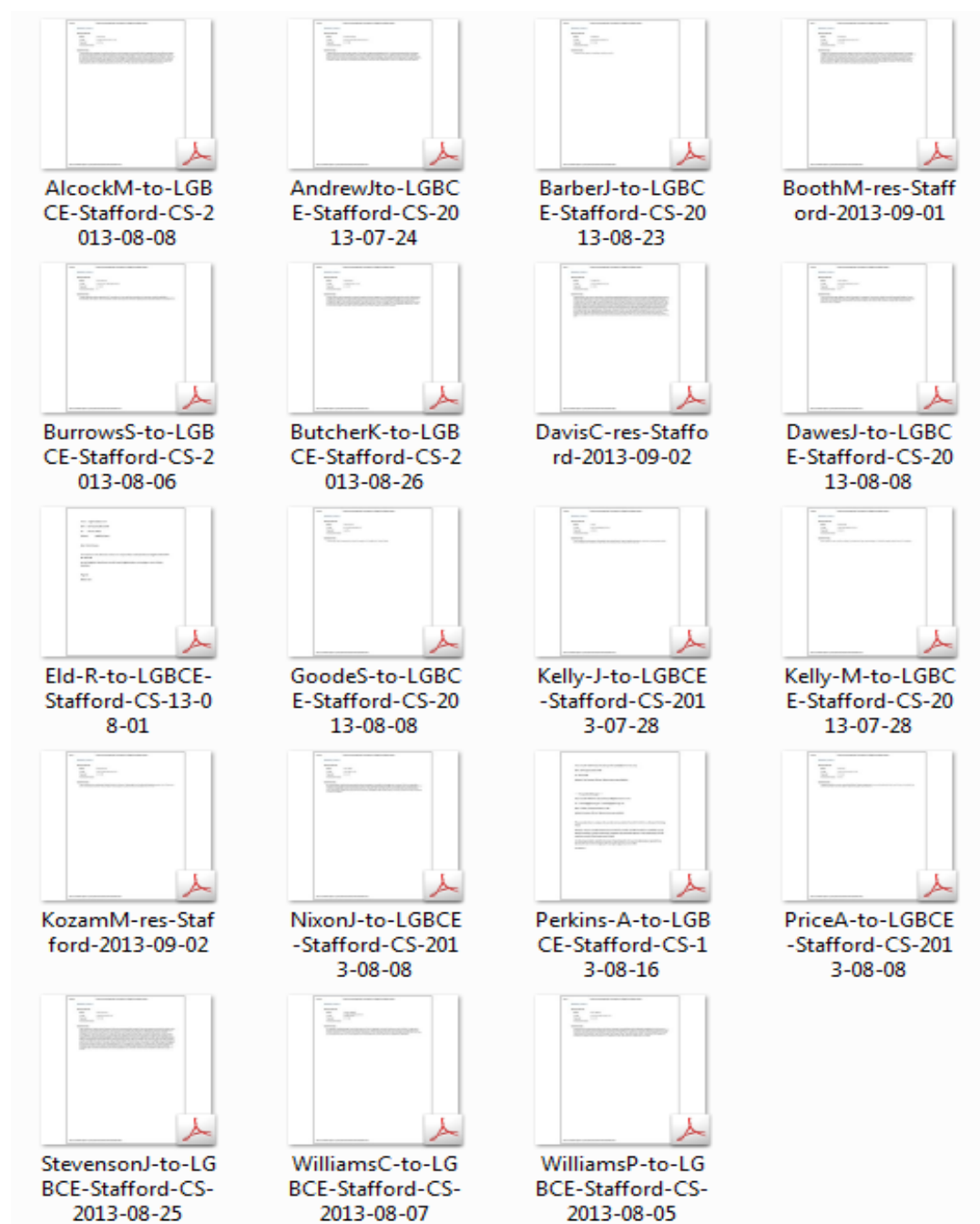


## Local residents submissions to the Stafford Borough Council electoral review.

This PDF document contains 19 submissions from local residents.

Some versions of Adobe allow the viewer to move quickly between bookmarks.

Click on the submission you would like to view. If you are not taken to that page, please scroll through the document.



## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** mark alcock

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

The reduction in the number of councillors will have a positive impact on the council's ability to make decisions and will have no impact on the community. Councillors are an unnecessary nuisance and make simple decisions far more difficult. Most Councillors are driven by their own self interests and political agendas and are an unwanted nuisance. Fewer councillors will help streamline and speed up the decision making process, however I still think 40 councillors is still too many. I would prefer 20 independent councillors. I fail to see the relevance of national parties at a local level, surely councillors should make decisions based on what's best and not be driven by the party that they are unnecessarily affiliated too. Party politics at the local level skews the decision making process! I would much prefer to adopt a European approach where they have fewer councillors and allow decisions by qualified professionals rather than middle aged and elderly councillors taking decisions that they don't fully understand or based on political point scoring.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Jonathan Andrew

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I support the moves to reduce the number of Councillors to the proposed number of 40. A reduction in number should not have an adverse impact on decision making at a local level and Councillors should still be able to engage effectively with local communities. There are currently discrepancies in the numbers of councillors representing wards as a result of recent and planned residential building and this would be the correct time to review and amend those numbers. The activities the Borough Council is responsible for have reduced over recent years (Housing for example is now delivered by Stafford & Rural Homes) and therefore a smaller number of Councillors should still be able to accurately and effectively represent their communities on issues over which they have influence.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Jack Barber

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I think that the number of councillors should stay as it is.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Mary Booth

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors on Stafford Borough Council. As their duties have reduced, for example relating to council houses, there is less for them to do. Currently there would seem to be over-representation, which costs money. If a councillor is absent for a long time due to illness, this does not now seem to cause a problem. Provision of services is shared with neighbouring authorities, which saves time and money. I do not believe that democracy would be diminished by a reduction in numbers. However, it is important that rural areas are adequately covered, bearing in mind distances involved. In future, it may be useful to consider meetings for clusters of parish councils on a regular basis, in order to improve general communication with the Borough Council. I support the arguments put forward by Stafford Borough Council regarding the proposal. I do not think it would have a deleterious effect on the council's committee-working nor decision-making.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Steve Burrows

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Na

### Comment text:

I would support the Labour proposal of 45 Councillors as I have seen their proposals and, how wards would be reshuffled to accommodate this number. This is the Only proposal I have seen that has shown a new ward layout. I particularly like the proposal for my own ward, a it merges east and west inti 1 ward, removing the west from an adjoining ward, which has always made sense to me

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Chris Butcher

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I do not believe that the proposals to reduce the number of elected members by 19 would greatly impact the council's ability to make decisions. The number of members needs to satisfy two main areas. Firstly and most importantly to represent the interests of the constituents. Whilst there is a risk that the reduced number of members would interfere with the ability to access representation, it will also likely attract better quality and competition in the election process & I do not believe will significantly interfere with constituent's ability to represent their electorate. Secondly there is a risk that a smaller number of councillors will mean that stupid decisions are more likely to be passed without challenge. Whilst that is a risk, 40 members is still a significant number and I do not see that the changes would make a serious impact on the Council's ability to perform its functions.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Castell Davis

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

A general point -there are too many layers of local government administration.It is a very expensive way of providing local government in which the councillor system does not provide effective administration(eg look at the Francis report where neither councillors nor officers looked efficient in overseeing local hospital performance).Much is just rubber stamping,in effective and duplicated elsewhere.It is much better for council's to stick to straightforward practical matters planning,refuse,environmental health. Specifically,40 members is still too high .Currently, a little county like staffordshire has about 600 councillors in the county council and districts and stoke- quite ridiculous that there are so many and of course all the servicing they require from officers including unnecessary mayoralty.No wonder local government is so expensive perhaps the recession has a good aspect. You look at electoral equity between wards to see there are similar numbers of electors per councillor but you have not before looked at comparable councillor numbers between different areas. For example i suspect say Blackburn council with a similar population does not have a similar council level.Anyway if the local government structure is not going to be unitary ,and it should, ie just the county then Stafford representation should be low say 25. The political parties have difficulty finding worthwhile candidates for the seats often fielding unsatisfactory persons (or overtly political persons who dont make evenhanded decisions).Perhaps it is an opportunity for them to review their selection too .With fewer members they would be better known and anything that helps encourage councils to be seen in a good light working with ordinary folk not as a millstone will be of benefit and may encourage sterling members of the local comunity who are not party members to take part.



## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** James Dawes

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** None

### Comment text:

I live in one of the many villages in Stafford Borough. At the moment I can vote for a Parish Councillor, Borough Councillor, County Councillor, M.P., an MEP, and there was a suggestion at one stage for a regional "parliament". I would suggest that there are far too many Elected representatives and any reduction in their numbers would be productive. My main reason for stating this is that there must now exist duplicity between authorities over decision making. The obvious other comment I would make is financial saving involved in such a reduction.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 01 August 2013 14:05  
To: Pascoe, Mark  
Subject: seighford ward

Dear Mark Pascoe,

In response to the electoral review can I request that Cooksland House Seighford ST18 9PP.  
be returned

to the Seighford Ward from that of Great Bridgeford,thus correcting an error of long  
standing.

Regards

Robert Eld

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** shirley goode

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I 100% agree with the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors for Stafford District

## Stafford District

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** J Kelly

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

The Councillors should remain at 59 certainly. Hixon should have it's own Councillor to prevent a reduction in representation which seems to happen too frequently. Please take these comments into consideration. Thank you.

## Stafford District

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Michael Kelly

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Hixon needs it's own councillor to afford the residents a fairer representation so I think the number should stay at 59 councillors.

## Stafford District

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Michael Kozam

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I am, and have been a resident of Stafford District for 39 years. I believe that the Council could effectively operate, and still represent me in a democratic and more efficient manner, by reducing the number of elected councillors from 59 to 40.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** James Nixon

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

As a local resident I feel that the proposals to reduce the number of councillor's is the right one. At present 59 is far to many for a Borough which is relatively small. It is also likely that this will lead to greater accountability in my opinion as with fewer councillors they would have to be held to account with greater scrutiny. Other significant points to consider must be that the size of the Borough Council has significantly reduced over the last few years; Services it has run in the past such as housing have been transferred to other organisations which means it serves fewer purposes and finally it makes greater sense to have a Council run by fewer people to cut the cost of politics.

From: ALAN PERKINS <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 16 August 2013 14:39

To: Reviews@

Subject: Fw: Review Officer / Electoral review Stafford

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: ALAN PERKINS <[REDACTED]>

To: "review@lgbce.org.uk" <review@lgbce.org.uk>

Sent: Friday, 16 August 2013, 11:40

Subject: Review Officer / Electoral review Stafford

The consideration to reduce the number of councillors from 59 in S B C is a forward thinking move

However I have considered the work involved currently and 40 members in a 50/50 council would be rather a drastic reduction, however my personal opinion is that reducing to 45/46 members would allow better work loads.

In reducing numbers and the increase of workload for the current allowances would be a backward step to encouraging the younger age group councillor.

A J Perkins



## Stafford District

**Personal Details:****Name:**

[REDACTED]

**E-mail:**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode:**

ST16 1AJ

**Organisation Name:**

Retired

**Comment text:**

I think 40 councillors are quite enough for Stafford. Decision making and cost would perhaps be better, and I have no doubt that we will still would have some very good, reliable and caring representatives.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** John Stevenson

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

Since the last local election, when the name of the area was unexpectedly changed, I have been trying unsuccessfully to obtain a plan which shows the current Ward boundaries. None has been forthcoming that is usable; the scale making the plans unreadable or the plan having no topographic base. How can one be expected to comment when the Plans available to provide basic information are inadequate for the purpose? Stafford Council has followed a system of operating that does not enable the actions of elected Councillors to be observed when issues are discussed, but only permits discussion after a decision has been taken covertly outside the Committees. That covert decision is then defended in Committee without the basis on which it was taken being revealed or the influences on the decision made being disclosed. The Electorate has lost confidence in the Authority by the way it is operating and the way the majority party is conducting itself. By using this system Electors have no Councillor they can turn to with confidence for advice, when the Councillor may use the information gained against the Electors interests without that action being detected. The Electorate requires Councillors they can discuss issues with, in the knowledge that discussion on the outcome in Committee can be witnessed, to justice can be seen to be done. Councillors voting on Party lines or in support of trade organisation such as NFU should be identifiable for what they support if they are not truly independent. As to the number of Councillors, if it is not possible to identify the area they represent or the value of their advice, what function can they beneficially perform, however many there are? To be of value the Councillors need to be open, competent and available within reason. The smaller the number the greater the likelihood that they will not provide the service the Electorate expects in an acceptable way. That is the current situation in Stafford in the view of many people

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Christine Williams

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

Re councillors Stafford Borough Council. Reduction from 59 to 40 councillors. Vote Yes. But there are only 26 Wards. So why not 1 councillor per ward? Many of these councillors are also on the Staffordshire County Council. So why not cut those councillors off the Borough Council? As 70% non voters in local election, then councillors need to be cut 70%. When will unitary councils become the norm in England as it is in Scotland? This would substantially cut the £200 million expenses bill of councillors that has risen over 150% in recent years. Also the cost of council leaders and ceremonial mayors is not addressed, in cutting these altogether.

## Stafford District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Peter Williams

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

A reduction in the number of councillors would reduce democratic accountability when the Borough's population is set to increase because of new service families arriving and several new building proposals. The ward in which I live (Littleworth) is a large and varied one with a mix of housing and of demographic composition of the residents. It needs three councillors. It would seem to be to be the wrong time when the Borough is expanding to reduce the size of the council. Stafford has a number of current challenges as regards employment and social issues. We need councillors closer to the people, rather than further away. I would prefer no reduction in councillors but would accept the reduction to 45 suggested by the Labour group if a change had to be made.