

From: Cllr Morson
Sent: 14 June 2012 22:37
To: 'Paul.Kingsley@lgce.org.uk'
Subject: FW: Boundary Commission Proposal.

Boundary Commission Proposal For Uttlesford District Council From The Liberal Democrat Group

Dear **Mr Kingsley**,

A consensus between Parties has not been possible, fundamentally because we believe that the range of figures of between 38 to 40 Councillors, produced by the Conservative Administration does not have any evidential basis, nor is it related to any Member involvement, as promised, through the Cross Party Electoral Working Group, which has never met.

Therefore, the Liberal Democrat Group on Uttlesford District Council wish to put forward a reduced figure of 35 Councillors as our response to the forthcoming Boundary Review for the District.

There are four main reasons for our decision.

1 The major reason for the Review are the inconsistencies in Elector Councillor Ratio's in some of our wards. With a current electorate of 61,974 and the predictions of population increase, we believe the figure of 35 Councillors would be in line with the average elector/councillor ratio in England of one Councillor to 1,842 Electors.

2 The figure of 35 would be in line with Uttlesford Officer Recommendations, following a recent Survey on the Work Load of Councillors, that the Council could effectively function as an organisation with between 34 and 36 Councillors.

3 In view of the lack of Meetings of the Electoral Review Working Party, two Members of our Group have produced a Proposal of a possible remodelling of Ward Boundaries to test if there could be an equitable geographic distribution of this ratio with 35 Councillors. This piece of work, which we acknowledge is not perfect and not required by yourselves at this stage, is an attempt to provide an evidential base for this number of Councillors which could work. This has been shared with both the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Independent Group.

4 Our proposals which would involve, reducing wards in Saffron Walden would help to overcome imbalances in the relationship between Councillors and other Local Representatives in their Wards. For example, there are currently 9 District Councillors in Saffron Walden who liaise with the Town Council, whilst one Councillor in a rural ward has to deal with 5 Parish Councils.

Finally, in our deliberations and conclusions, which led up to our proposal of a revised figure of 35 Councillors, three main principles of, effective management, viable Ward Representation and the need for a robust evidence base for any proposed figure, have been paramount in our considerations.

Cllr David Morson
Leader Of The Liberal Democrat Group
Uttlesford District Council