

City of Nottingham**Personal Details:****Name:** Ethan Radford**E-mail:** [REDACTED]**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:****Comment text:**

I would like to argue in favour of maintaining multi-member wards in Nottingham City, and I believe there are many reasons to argue as such. I am a local political activist in Nottingham and spend many days with Councillor's helping residents and have seen first hand the benefits of having multi-member wards. For example, I know of one who is currently awaiting a by-election and their other colleague has been on leave, though thanks to being represented by more than one member, the local community is still having their issues addressed. Equality of access for disabled people being able to be councillor's is also another valid argument. Many wards in Nottingham have flats and high rises that are difficult for wheelchair users to access, which would be difficult for disabled councillor's and may thus be a barrier for them to stand and represent their local community. Not to mention some areas that are geographically steep, which some parts of the city are well known for. Single member wards would also be a barrier for women to stand as councillor's, especially if they have family or work responsibilities that could easily be taken care of by having a colleague. Not only that, speaking as a young member of the community who works in a minimum wage job and aspires to one day represent my community in Nottingham, I would be unable to stand due to financial constraints of leaving work to manage the responsibility of being the sole member responsible for a ward. The result of this, and the inherent problem of one member wards, would be that councillor's would predominantly become middle age to retired men who have the time and financial security to dedicate their time. This would deny people from the community who may be young, disabled, on a low income, who are female, and also ethnic minorities, from being a councillor and addressing the issues of their community. In most wards, there are also many diverse cultures home to a variety of races and religions. One member wards would result in the decreasing representation of already underrepresented communities. In some cases, and indeed in some wards, it is necessary to have councillor's that can represent specific communities within wards with a range of different councillor's of different genders and different language skills means that people can have access to a local representative who understands them. In addition, multi members guarantee residents full time and year round representation and addressing of their problems. Something which would not be possible with a one member ward were that member on leave for any period of time for whatever reason. In contrast, the benefits of one member wards dwarf in comparison to the difficulties raised and which have been addressed above. Unlike Members of Parliament, local councillor's are not only representatives who speak on behalf of their constituents, but people who work within and with the local community on their everyday issues, from the lowliest such as bin collection to the dire such as housing. For these reasons, and many more that I'm sure have been raised by other concerned residents of Nottingham, I argue in favour of maintains multi member wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded