

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

I would like to put forward the case to maintain multi-member wards in Nottingham. There are many good reasons for this. As a local councillor I'm currently awaiting a by-election (due to the election of one of my co-councillors as an MP) and other my colleague has been on leave, but because there are 3 of us, residents have still received still get cover for their issues. Multi member wards mean that people with mobility issues can stand for election. Some of our residents' buildings have no wheelchair access to the higher floors. Also Nottingham has areas of rough terrain on the ground, steps, etc so some of the places we have to visit can be impossible for someone with mobility issues. A multi-member ward means that at least one of the councillors can visit residents in their premises even if the lift isn't working (or doesn't exist). Multi member wards mean that more women can stand for election. Fellow ward councillors can cover for maternity leave, for child care issues, for caring responsibilities/ these can affect men, but, in society, it is predominantly women that pick up these responsibilities. With co-councillors to support you, will encourage more younger representatives and female representatives. You also can take on special roles to give the public better and more thorough representation. For example in one ward we have one councillor who is on the executive, another who is good at IT, another really good at casework. These skills compliment each other and it means the residents in that ward get a better service. With single member wards it would more necessitate being a jack/jill of all trades less likely a master of none. Multi- member wards mean that different parts of the community can be represented. This is important in Nottingham due to the different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. We have many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. (Some women are very uncomfortable approaching a man with their personal issues, for example). In almost every ward we have male and female councillors for the same geography, BME councillors in the areas where their communities live. Some of our South Asian councillors speak four languages. Multi-member wards also mean that people with jobs outside of politics can stand as local councillors. This enables them to spread the workload with their fellow councillors. I think residents get a much better service from their local representatives in multi-member wards. If I become ill I know that the people I represent will not be affected, they can contact my co-councillors instead. Also it means that I don't have to be worried about letting people down if I'm unwell. I hope I've made a comprehensive case for the retention of multi-member wards in Nottingham.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded