

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

I would like to put forward the case to maintain multi-member wards in Nottingham. Standing as an elected representative should not just be within the reach of more older citizens, particularly retirees, who are likely to have more free time than younger candidates who are in study or take up employment whilst being a councillor. Multi-member wards will not deter students or young people in work from becoming councillors. Nottingham's council should reflect the community it serves and with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University within its boundaries it is important young people are not put off representing a ward. 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. 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, we will encourage more younger representatives and female representatives. 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). I think residents get a much better service from their local representatives in multi-member wards as councillors compliment each others skills and can form a more active presence in the community.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded