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22nd August 2010.

Dear Sir or Madam,

In my capacity as Chairman of the Hartlepool Branch of the U.K. Independence Party , and on behalf of my branch members, I wish to submit the following suggestions for the reorganisation of the local government structure in Hartlepool.

As you are probably aware, Hartlepool has an elected Mayor who runs the town with the help of a small Cabinet of councillors. This system puts too much power into the hands of a small number of people and creates apathy amongst the other councillors, who feel they have little or no influence on how the town is run. In our opinion this is an extremely expensive and undemocratic method of delivering local government services and the position of elected Mayor, together with the Cabinet system of local government, should be abolished .

In considering the general re-organisation of local government in Hartlepool we compared Hartlepool with the neighbouring towns of Stockton-upon-Tees and Middlesbrough and some surprising statistics emerged. The following table will explain.

Town	Population.	No. of Wards.	No. of Councillors	No. of residents per Councillor.
Hartlepool.	90,000	17	47	1925.
Middlesbrough.	140,000	23	48	2900.
Stockton	180,000	26	56	3210.

This table clearly shows that if councillors are diligent in their

responsibilities then there is a big discrepancy in the work load of the councillors of Hartlepool compared to those of Middlesbrough and Stockton.

To bring Hartlepool into line with Middlesbrough and Stockton there should be either a reduction in the number of councillors or a reduction in the number of wards.. Our preferred option is a reduction in the number of councillors to 2 per ward with the Hart and Greatham Wards remaining unchanged. This would mean that Hartlepool would have 32 councillors, with the number of residents per councillor being ,on average, 2800. This is a much more realistic figure and brings Hartlepool into line with our neighbouring boroughs.

If these proposals are accepted then in 2012 the whole of Hartlepool council would be elected and then all councillors could come up for re-election every 3 years, eliminating the costly annual elections which currently take place. Together with the reduced expenditure on councillor allowances a substantial saving in the cost of local government in Hartlepool would result without any loss of efficiency.

Eric Wilson.

Chairman.

Hartlepool Branch U.K. Independence Party.