

**Gregory, Eleanor**

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**From:** Dunkeyson, Nicholas  
**Sent:** 05 December 2011 10:20  
**To:** Morrison, William  
**Subject:** FW: Custom Form Submission Received  
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**From:** reviews@lgbce.org.uk [mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 05 December 2011 10:18  
**To:** Reviews@  
**Subject:** Custom Form Submission Received



- Custom Form Submission Notification

**Custom Form Submission Received**

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Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

**Custom Form:** Online submissions form (#183)  
**Form URL:** <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>  
**Submission ID:** 831  
**Time of Submission:** Dec 5th 2011 at 10:17am  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

Form Answers

**Name:** Peter Wright  
**Address 1:** [REDACTED]  
**Address 2:** [REDACTED]  
**Address 3:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Email Address:** [REDACTED]  
**Area your submission refers to:** Northamptonshire  
**Organisation you belong to:** other (please specify in your submission)

**Your feedback:**  
I write on behalf of Daventry Constituency Labour Party to express our views on the draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Northamptonshire County Council. While some reduction in the number of councillors is desirable, we believe that a cut to 57 members is excessive.

We do not believe an adequate case has been made for tinkering with the number of county councillors. In considering the size of the Council and division boundaries, the effectiveness and quality of way ordinary people are represented must be paramount. If halving the number of councillors would enhance democracy, then that is what we would propose, but equally if democratic considerations suggested an increase in numbers would be desirable, then that would be our recommendation.

We appreciate that the cost of democracy cannot be ignored. A reduction in the size of the Council from 73 to 57 councillors would save around Â£120,000 â€‘a saving of about one fortieth of one percent of the total Council budget. While we would not want Â£120,000 of council tax payersâ€™ money to be spent unnecessarily, a reduction in the size of the Council would affect the ability of the Council to monitor and scrutinise expenditure of around Â£450m per year, a false economy.

We believe that a major reduction at this time would be unnecessary and a waste of public money, and potentially detrimental to local government in Northamptonshire.

At present the electorate of the area covered by Daventry District is under-represented at the county council level in that the average division size in Daventry is above the County average. At present Daventry has 8 divisions and we believe that the present arrangement works well as it divides the District into 8 parts, each of which has defining characteristics. If all of Northamptonshire had the same ratio of electors to councillors as Daventry, the size of the Council would be 69.

We would recommend this as a target number rather than one to be achieved at all costs. Northamptonshire has a mix of urban and rural divisions, and while we accept divisions should as far as possible be of more or less equal size, we believe there should be sufficient flexibility around the average size to achieve divisions each of which has common characteristics. We are not aware of any public pressure to achieve divisions of equal size at the expense of having divisions that do not reflect communities of interest. Thus, while we recommend a council of about 69 members, the precise number should arise from the process of drawing boundaries that take account of the nature of the areas to be represented.

Daventry CLP therefore urges you to accept our recommendation for only minor changes in the number of councillors and to maintain the number of county councillors in the Daventry District Council area to 8.

Yours faithfully

Peter Wright

Secretary Daventry Constituency Labour Party

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