

Gregory, Eleanor

From: Dunkeyson, Nicholas
Sent: 02 December 2011 12:00
To: Morrison, William
Subject: FW: Council size, Northamptonshire.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Keith [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2011 11:47
To: Reviews@
Subject: Council size, Northamptonshire.

From: Kings Heath Residents Association, Northampton, Northamptonshire.
To: Local Government Boundary Commission for England

RE: Electoral Review of Northamptonshire.
Issue: Council size for Northamptonshire County Council.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following a discussion with our committee, these views as to council size were expressed:

Ensuring adequate coverage of a Ward is far more important than the size of a particular council. If a designated area is large enough to merit two or even three councillors, one or the other of these can at present take over if a councillor falls ill for an indefinite period, thus ensuring people in the Ward are adequately represented. Therefore we feel that generally one councillor is insufficient to cover one Ward. Each Ward needs a minimum of two councillors.

In Kings Heath Northampton we have experienced problems where just one county councillor covered a Ward, and when that councillor was ill for a period of over 12 months, nothing was done by the county council to appoint someone else to carry on the functions of that councillor. There was in effect, no councillor for our Ward. This was a very unsatisfactory situation.

We feel therefore, that if the number of councillors overall are to be trimmed down, it is absolutely essential that provision is made so there is either another councillor, or a local government officer if needs be, appointed to take over to perform the functions of a councillor who is ill or absent for a period of more than two weeks. If this is not diligently done, there is little point in having councillors in the first place. Adequate representation of the constituents within a Ward is essential to the democratic process.

Thanking you,

K. Westhead,
Secretary,
KHRA.
02/12/2011.