

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

If, as was intended by the creation of a unitary authority, a more streamlined, efficient and effective service was to be delivered, there is no evidence to date that this was a success. The retention of existing councillors and wards has not resulted in better representation of residents at Council level. It is clear there is over representation in many wards, and fewer by comparison in others, including mine, Chalfont St Peter, where in this interim period it has created a muddle of councillors with no clear remit or responsibilities. So the review must achieve a number of key targets: parity of councillor numbers relative to population; a dramatic improvement in the quality of fewer councillors ie people who are energetic, enthusiastic, campaigning, caring, understanding of local issues and concerns, responsive to their constituents, accountable for their performance, communicating regularly using all means available, with their constituents (ie not just at election time). Secondly, the new wards must be drawn around areas of the county where there are close and strong links, eg in urban Aylesbury, or in the south of the county which is primarily Green Belt and AONB, the councillors must be capable of representing wards that are bound by this strong link and be able to respond to and manage the issues that arise from this. Thirdly, the new Council needs to have greater accountability, transparency, visibility, clarity of purpose, and a strategic plan to deliver services. The existing leadership and Cabinet require root and branch reform, to deliver services to a high standard that meet the county needs. The Chief Executive and their team are hidden from view and need to be proactive and visible, and the councillors and Cabinet must hold their performance, and that of sub contracted services eg TFB to account and publish meaningful performance data that reinforces this. This Council relies on reactive management; with a delivery of services that do not put its residents at the centre of everything they do; rather it seems, we are expendable. As mere residents to achieve anything with the Council as presently structured requires a superhuman effort and an over reliance on making complaints, to get things done. Complainants are regarded as irritants. This must change. The present structure of the Council fails on all accounts, moving boundaries and reducing the number of councillors is only the first step in a much bigger and challenging process.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded