

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

[REDACTED]

Comment text:

With the recommendation to reduce the number of borough councillors to 39 from 48, I can only assume that each ward will have fewer councillors to represent and support them. Additionally, ward sizes may also increase. As such the local councillors work load would likely increase or the time, they can afford to their constituents may be less. The reduction would also reduce the diversity of opinion afforded to the wards as currently my ward is represented by two separate parties and this offers a healthy and different outlook. With a reduction in councillors, which would obviously result in an increase in work load, the likely demographic for volunteers to become councillors will move to those with more time available which is likely to the elder and retired generation. With a consistently changing workplace embracing new and modern techniques, along with a rapid shift in technology which can be a challenge to maintain pace with even when working in associated fields, narrowing the candidate field may constrain the opportunity for new techniques and ideas to come to the fore to the detriment of the local area. The governments agenda for localism is likely to gain a pace and the momentum will continue no matter which party is in control within central government. This approach divests power from the centre to the local areas, however with this comes much responsibility and an increase in associated workload. The approach by the electoral commission to reduce councillors at such an important time for democracy appears at odds with the national strategy for the country and perhaps should be reconsidered.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded