

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Only really able to comment using Aylesbury as an example. Also, i'm conscious of need to keep areas configured so that councillors have broadly equal number of residents to support. Also, how things are done would be affected by whether there is a preference to have current number of wards with 2 councillors each, 98 single councillor wards, or a mixture based on requirements (eg within towns you may keep 2-councillor wards because of logical boundaries, but out of towns you may have single councillor areas based around villages with lower populations). There are some new housing developments being built on boundary of Aylesbury, which would seem more logically sat with "Aylesbury" Wards, rather than the villages that surround the town. Eg Kingsbrook being Aston Clinton & Bierton, Watermead being part of Wing and Berryfields part of Stone & Waddesdon. I feel in some cases it would help if the wards were based on areas that are linked, eg main road running between them, so Bierton would be better off linked with Wing, than Aston Clinton. Equally, doesn't seem logical to link Waddesdon and Stone together as one ward. Equally, within towns, i'd think wards maybe should be setup on logical grouped areas, perhaps with main roads as the boundaries in this instance. So for instance, the Aylesbury West area i'd re-assess, with the area to the south-east of Oxford Road moved to Aylesbury South West, and if necessary, perhaps part of Aylesbury North West could get reallocated to Aylesbury West. or a smaller Aylesbury West, and then also perhaps Aylesbury North West split down. one thing that i suspect influences some of the current boundaries is the former legacy council areas of buckinghamshire, specifically the ex-district councils, so would also use the redraw as an opportunity to adjust wards so that, if appropriate, a new ward may cross over what would historically have been part of 2 separate district areas. with regards number of councillors per area (a point i mention at the top), i think on balance, it may be better to move to single councillor areas where possible (unless its too difficult to split an area up into 2), so that its easier for members of the public to know who their councillor is. I am conscious of possible issues where if there is more than one councillor, a person may contact both, but each may assume/expect the other to deal with an issue, and could cause delay in getting an issue looked at. The problem is there will always be outliers, where it would be nice to logically join them to one area or another, or don't really sit well with adjacent areas (and perhaps might sit better with a different local authority area), but would need to sit within a part of a Ward that they don't have much to do with.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded