

South Staffordshire District Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: [REDACTED]

Comment text:

Boundary Changes Introduction May I introduce myself. My name is [REDACTED]. I was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Towards the end of my time there it was decided by the council to reduce the numbers of councillors. This was an initiative started by the council itself with no reference, as far as I can recall, to anyone else. The result was to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the 2003 election in order to reduce the number of councillors from 50 to 49. Even though there were big changes here, there were hardly any or no changes to other parts of the district. Concerns with reducing the number of councillors. Featherstone is expected to grow. There is already development on the old royal ordnance site and new housing on the old Brinsford lodge site. There is also development expected on the i54 and along the A449. I also expect in the coming years farmland between Featherstone and Brinsford will be built on for housing. Unlike the urban councils, this largely rural council is made up of villages which have more in common with their nearest large conurbation than they do with each other. The villages would rely on them for things like bus services, shopping and employment. It is interesting to note that other councils are not being asked to reduce the number of councillors. All will stay the same. It strikes me that a council that can reduce the number of members by a fifth has very little left to scrutinise or will be letting itself dangerously exposed to accusations of lack of oversight. What I suggest Either: To increase the number of councillors from 49 back to 50 but boundary changes should take account of future population growth and ensure adequate oversight of the work of the council. Bearing in mind that most of the new housing and industrial development will be in the north of the district. Or: To abolish South Staffordshire Council altogether and merge wards with adjoining councils that are physically and culturally more connected to than other areas of the district.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded