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I am a Blackpool Council Tax payer, and have lived and worked in the town for over 15 years, often working closely with local elected members (Councillors) from Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and Independents during this time. In my experience the current structure of 2 councillors per ward and 21 wards in the town works well. As Blackpool has high levels of deprivation, the amount of Councillor time doing casework and work in these deprived wards is considerable. Responding to the concerns of local people, and representing them in the town hall. Making the wards bigger would dilute this relationship and would also mean that the councillors in the wards that have the highest deprivation, and so more complex local issues, would have increased areas and thus increased demands on their time. Therefore i would like to see one of the following 2 proposals be delivered, they are: a) the ward boundaries stay the same (following 2001 review) and the number of councillors, of 2 per ward, stay the same, with the Mayor holding a casting vote in the event of a 'split' council chamber. b) wards with the highest indices of multiple deprivation (currently Bloomfield, Brunswick, Claremont, Talbot, Waterloo) have 3 elected members, but that these 5 posts be withdrawn from the areas with less deprivation across the borough. These less deprived areas could then have one councillor to help them with local issues and be their voice in the town hall. There are always pros and cons to any suggestion, however this consultation could enable true systemic change to ensure that council tax payers in the borough get even better value for money. I am confident that all Councillors in Blackpool work incredibly hard in their roles and want to do the best they can for our town and the people who live here, so i do not support reducing the numbers of councillors. However the suggestion of redistributing resources based on need is an interesting one and i am also confident that it will deliver a much better service to our fantastic town's greatest areas of need.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded