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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 September 2021 10:28
To: reviews
Subject: Buckinghamshire Council Member Numbers Review
Categories: Matt, Submissions

The consultation takes 3 existing number proposals. However the coming in to being of the unitary under Covid underlined the difficulty of integrating diverse locally based authorities into an enormous remote central body, run by a small cabinet group and officer dominated. Whilst large councillor numbers lead to many unengaged councillors, fundamental issues of meeting times (ie daytime) and the geographically inconvenient location exacerbate disengagement and disenfranchisement. The creation of arbitrary Community Boards and pools for cash handouts further undermines the role of local councillors and seeks to usurp parish councils.

The lesser numbers are promoted by those seeking little oversight and democratic representation and a number of 98 or more is essential but with active roles, access and involvement for councillors across age groups, employment sectors, etc to ensure proper representation of the people and not a moribund pensioners' club.

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