

Buckinghamshire County Council

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

1. The Council should have fewer than 50 members. The Council is run by the Leader, the cabinet, and a few key committee chairman. Say a dozen people. The rest don't really have a job to do, in terms of running the Council or decision-making. (They will say different, but check the attendances of most councillors 2020-21!!). The job of 'community representative', which backbench councillors will claim, can be better done, more locally, by town and parish councillors. The current 147 members is at least 100 too many. 2. The electoral divisions should be all single-member. There are two reasons for this. One, getting rid of the old county and district division stopped the perennial question of 'which Council does this?' We now have three-member wards, so that question is replaced by 'which councillor does this?' Multi-member wards tend to mean that either work is duplicated or triplicated (the public will not know, so will send the same email to all three), or the one active councillor does all the work for the other two. The second reason for single-member wards is simply political diversity. there are many local councils that are completely dominated by one party - in Buckinghamshire it happens to be the Conservatives. the larger the ward/division, the more likely the dominant party will win. Which is why the current Buckinghamshire Council has about 80% Conservatives on (say?) 45% of the vote. (I should add that I was a member of Chiltern and then Buckinghamshire Councils, 1991-2011)

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded