

## Buckinghamshire County Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** David Brackin

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**Organisation Name:** Fulmer Parish Council

### Comment text:

I chair a parish council. I am not involved in the Bucks council other than through my parish role. The current numbers of 147 councillors have left us with disengaged third ward councillors who are coasting along apparently barely helping their community and a loss of personal responsibility. Individuals do not know who their local councillors are. Some trios have informally split the wards into thirds -- presumably by luck the more experienced ones take the third with a strong majority. We are also awash with unitary councillors so that many sit as twin-hatters on town and parish councillor creating a conflict of interest between the local and unitary roles. Pretty much every town and parish around here has an on-board unitary councillor. Further there is confusion as the ward boundaries are not coincident with parish boundaries, but community board boundaries are coincident with these so some ward councillors are askew various boards. I would like to see an alignment of ward boundaries with parish boundaries so that there can be better representation of the unitary authority in local councils -- the risk of the remote unitary is that it becomes disconnected from local residents and this alignment should help reconnect members with a sense of personal responsibility towards a cohesive set of residents. It is odd, for example, that the Mayor of Gerrards Cross, a unitary councillor, is not the representative of Gerrards Cross East. Furthermore the number of councillors per ward should be reduced to two -- one and a spare. Like many things, when it comes to ensuring the work is done, one is too few; three is too many. This can stop the informal and unsupervised division of wards as well as further driving a sense of personal responsibility and connection between ward councillors and their residents. So with slightly larger wards, aligned with parish boundaries and two ward councillors, I believe that would be around 90 councillors, which feels like it might make considerations of the full council more manageable, and allow voices from across the county to be heard in debate.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded