

From: [Rutherford, Tom](#)
To: [reviews](#)
Subject: FW: Electoral Review of North Northamptonshire Council - observations of Independent Councillor James Hakewill
Date: 06 March 2023 17:00:48
Importance: High

Hi guys – can we get this logged as a North Northants sub?

Any problems, let me know.

Thanks

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From: Cllr Jim Hakewill <Jim.Hakewill@northnorthants.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2023 16:59
To: Rutherford, Tom <tom.rutherford@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Electoral Review of North Northamptonshire Council - observations of Independent Councillor James Hakewill
Importance: High

Hello Tom

I realise that today is the last day prior to the conclusion of observations on Ward Boundaries and I am sending this in my individual capacity as the sole elected (in May 2021) Independent Councillor.

Prior to being elected to North Northamptonshire Council in May 2021 I was on the predecessor Kettering Borough Council, KBC (1987 - 1995 and then 1999 - 2021) I was also elected to Northamptonshire County Council NCC from (2013 - 2021).

In the above elected roles, I represented a number of Parishes on KBC and when elected in 2013 to NCC I was in the first election after a boundary review of county Divisions reduced the number from 74 to 57 members.

I was elected in the Rothwell- Mawsley Ward in 2013 which had the Town of Rothwell and a number of surrounding villages which made up the requisite number of electors for a single member Division. It was always my opinion that as a single member I could represent everyone with equality, Town or Rural.

Since 2021 with three members in each former County Division there has been, I feel a split between the Town and Rural representation whereby I have continued to at least try and represent the entire electorate but with two Members elected and living in the main Town of Rothwell it has I feel caused an imbalance of Town vs Rural. This is perhaps exacerbated by the two other NCC Councillors also being on the Rothwell Town Council.

I feel that the villages added to the urban areas to make the requisite +/- 10% are struggling for representation and to some extent overwhelmed by the sheer size of the competing Urban areas, in a sense they feel less likely to be represented and achieve services than their urban neighbours.

My point is that in seeking to attain the non-negotiable numbers per Councillor we

will see the new ward boundaries creating the same imbalance. I can't see a way around this given the core criteria.

It would be much better if villages were grouped together in rural wards and the urban areas the same so that both electors and Councillors representing them would have a clear rural perspective without feeling that the larger Urban areas are favoured.

Obviously from a potential candidate's point of view the Urban areas would make more sense to concentrate on at election times rather than the more scattered rural villages.

I think this same feeling happened in 2021 where the 2013 wards meant that there were major towns Desborough, Rothwell and Burton Latimer with surrounding villages added in to make the requisite numbers up.

I wanted to make this point even in the knowledge that I cannot find a way to improve this representation whilst the numbers required need villages to be added to their urban neighbours.

It is a fact that higher Urban numbers in a concentrated area are easier to accommodate and represent than relatively smaller numbers in dispersed villages.

I wanted to present my experience even though I don't have the time or resources to try and model ward boundaries across North Northamptonshire to try and solve the conundrum that I outline above. I would guess that a similar issue exists around all the Towns across the Unitary Area.

Thank you for taking this into account.

Stay Safe

Best Regards

Cllr Jim Hakewill

**Independent - Rothwell Mawsley Ward
North Northamptonshire Council**

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