

Buckinghamshire Council

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

I am a member of Buckinghamshire Council and have been since its inception. Prior to that I was a member of Wycombe District Council for 21 years. In the 80s and 90s I was a member of the London Borough of Lambeth. I have a long and detailed experience of the workloads on members of different types of authorities. Undoubtedly, the member workload is higher on Buckinghamshire Council is heavier than either of the other authorities I have served on. This may be partly due to it being a new authority and still finding its feet. It is also made worse because of the distances involved in traveling to meetings. In Lambeth and Wycombe most members lived within 10 miles of the Council offices. In Buckinghamshire, very few live within 10 miles of the offices and some have to travel 40 miles to a meeting. The number of committees is also much larger. The Council has created community boards covering the county with every member being a member of at least one. These have created sub groups and can result in meetings almost every week. On Buckinghamshire Council I am a member of four main committees, all of which have sub committees or working groups, as well as a community board and its sub groups. Some of these meet in the daytime and some in the evening. I am also appointed by the Council onto two outside bodies, where I am a director. As a community activist, I am involved in a number of community organisations, some of which I chair. As I am retired from paid employment, I can cope with this workload, but I know it is a struggle for some of my colleagues. This is with a council size of 147. If the number of Councillors was to be reduced, the workload on individual Councillors would undoubtedly increase. This would make it impossible for councilors with a full time job to fully participate in the council and would further increase the workload of those who don't work. This would result in a council mainly made up of retired or unemployed people which would not reflect the residents that they were elected to represent. I would urge you to leave the number of councillors for Buckinghamshire Council at 147.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded