

**From:** Sarah <sarah@aylesburyconservatives.com>  
**Sent:** 02 November 2021 16:43  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Buckinghamshire Council Size Consultation

**Categories:** Submissions, Matt

Hello,

I had issues loading this onto the site so I have popped a copy in the post but I thought to make sure I would email over a copy of our submission.

#### Local Government Boundary Review Submission November 2022

We understand that the number of Councillors on the new Buckinghamshire Council has divided opinion amongst a number of groups as to what is best for residents and provides value for money. We have looked at Councillors interactions with residents and community groups as our main focus to give our submission as to what we think the number should be going forwards. While all of the proposed figures all have their own merits we believe that the 98 figure is closest to what would be the best way forward, although given the amount of housebuilding in the north of the Council we believe that the figure would need to be increased to 101 to ensure that each Councillor is representing a fair and equal number of constituents, provide the proper scrutiny required of the £1 billion Council, work alongside their varied communities and the most important job of all for Councillors help their residents. Although you have mentioned that you will give careful scrutiny of proposals in excess of 100 members, we believe that the extra 3 Councillors are needed to reflect the changes that have happened in the County since the former County Council's 2016 proposal with a number of residential estates having been completed and residents moved in and settled down in the North of Buckinghamshire over the last 5 years.

As representatives of their local communities it is important that the wards make geographical sense but that they also are a suitable size. With a drastic reduction in the number of Councillors which has been proposed by other bodies this could increase the number of local communities that Councillors are expected to cover. It is important that all villages, parishes and areas are able to interact in a meaningful way with the Councillors via Parish Council meetings, community events as well as surgeries however if a ward/Councillor, especially in rural areas could well cover a huge number of parishes which mean that it would be difficult to discharge this duty fully whilst fitting this around usual Council business of committees and scrutiny as well as work and family life. If wards are too unwieldy it will be difficult to ensure that people from all walks of life and from all ages feel able to stand for election and it is so important that our representatives are just that and are representative of the local communities and the residents of our County.

To keep to 101 would allow for continuity for the majority of residents who have already seen a large amount of change of over the past two years, with the creation of the unitary authority, the formation of a Shadow Authority, the continuation of the Shadow Authority due to Covid along with all District & County Councillors becoming interim Unitary Councillors until an election could be held in 2021. As the new Council establishes itself we think it would make sense to continue with the current wards bar a few exceptions to deal with the aforementioned new homes that are predominately in the north. In further consultations we would happy to expand on possible ward boundaries.

*#handsfacespace*

For the latest government advice on Coronavirus COVID-19, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Regards

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