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CE/BAT
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Dear Ms Williams

Consultation on Council Size

Thank you for extending the consultation deadline to allow our full Council to debate the proposals of the consultation paper.

The Council considered the paper at its meeting on 17 July.

In recognising that our current Council size cannot be maintained and a review is necessary our response is as follows:-

1. our detailed answers to the specific questions posed in the paper are set out in the appendix to this letter;
2. we would recommend a size range is set for our Council and not a fixed number. A fixed number, set as the median of our collective grouping, would set an arbitrary and restrictive target number for the new review of local boundaries which is to follow;
3. the ratio of elector:representative member for rural areas should be flexible as set out in our answer to question 3 in the appendix;
4. we restate the strongly held Council view that community ties which are recognisable to local communities and electors should be the under-pinning principle for the review to follow; and
5. the term 'other' for the collective of Councils in which we are placed is disingenuous and an appropriate collective noun should be used.

I trust that our response is clear and informative.

Yours sincerely



Colin Everett
Chief Executive



Cllr Aaron Shotton
Leader