

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Miss Katherine Fullerton

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: West Coker Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Coker Ward, Yeovil Wards plus others

Somerset has to cut its councillors by 14 or 1 in 8 - from 110 to 96. It currently has 55 divisions, each with 2 councillors.

The concept of equalising populations has a flaw. The population of a large urban housing estate are certain to share main concerns about their area. However, Somerset's Dulverton and Exmoor division is more than 30 miles E-W, and people in Porlock will have worries which are somewhat different to those in Dulverton.

Divisions in the large towns (Taunton, Bridgwater, Yeovil, Burnham and Frome) have small geographic areas with boundaries that don't altogether match their present townscapes. If these were redrawn to reflect recent changes - expansion and centre depopulation - each with one fewer divisions, that would account for 10 of the 14 cut in councillor numbers.

In the rural areas, Splitting the current S Petherton and Islemoor division between the adjacent divisions of Crewkerne Martock, Curry Rivel and Ilminster would save a further 2 and would reflect where people in that division actually work and shop etc.

One further very local point. It would be helpful and logical if the small portion of West Coker's parish which is east of the A3088 (Watercombe Heights and Sampson's Wood) were moved into the Coker division.

Attached Documents:

None attached