

## Glenn Watson

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**Subject:** Buckinghamshire Electoral Review - Draft Submission (Buckinghamshire Council)

Dear Richard and Jonathan

I am writing to send you the Council's **draft submission** in response to your consultation on a pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire.

I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to submit a draft proposal, and to allow our formal submission to follow on from our scheduled Full Council meeting on 27 April formally. I also wanted to thank you again for your briefings to our members, which were well-received.

The draft proposals were worked up by a cross-party Electoral Review Working Group, which I chaired. They were then approved at the Council's Standards and General Purposes Committee on 17 March, which I also chair. The Committee has recommended the proposals to Full Council as the basis for our submission. As you will see from the outline attached, we have been mindful of the statutory criteria (electoral equality, community identity and effective local government). We consider that the proposals provide a strong balance of these. We will articulate the rationale and evidence more fully for you in our formal submission. For now, we hope our draft gives you a clear sense of the Council's approach.

### **The proposal:**

Our proposal follows your recommendation for 'council size' and would achieve 98 councillors. We would do this through a pattern of 50 wards, two with one-member and 48 with two-member representation. As these are draft proposals, you will see that there are still a few points we wish to review ourselves; and we would also welcome the opportunity to do so with you. 96% of our ward proposals are currently within tolerance: five wards are only marginally above/below, two slightly more so, and we are revisiting those.

### Please find attached:

1. Draft submission – with our outline rationale
2. Annex 1 – proposed wards: highlighting changes and equality/variance
3. Annex 2 – spreadsheet corresponding changes and electoral data
4. Annex 3 – PDF map of proposed wards. An interactive, layered version [is here](#).

### **Way forward:**

We will submit a fuller articulation after our Full Council meeting on 27 April. If you have any queries, or you wish to discuss the draft proposals with us, then myself and my supporting officers would be very happy to discuss them with you.

With regards

Cllr Thomas Broom  
Chairman of the Standards & General Purposes Committee and of its Electoral Review Working Group