

Public Statement for the County Council meeting on 10 November 2016

Statement from Mr Lester Taylor, Resident of Dorset and member of the UK Independence Party,
in relation to Democracy for Dorset

Firstly, I am extremely glad to see that democracy has won the day and that the previous wishes of this council to cancel next year's county council elections have been thwarted by a combination of public opinion and constitutional law.

Now we come onto 'Reshaping Your Councils'.

On hearing of this I got hold of one of the questionnaires and was appalled. I believe this is a leading document intended to illicit a prescribed response.

The screed should have been more objective and the questionnaire completely separate from the notes and much more even handed.

And when you look at the financial argument you see that it amounts to much work to save 1.11 percent over eight years.

Also, during the process you will be part of the double devolution process of asking parish councils to do more as well as establishing parish councils where none exist at present. I see no evidence that the extra cost of this to the taxpayer via increased or new parish precepts being factored in.

Said Javid and the Prime Minister have both stated that only councils that take on elected mayors will be given full access to the panoply of power and money available from central government - The public need to know where you stand on elected mayors.

If this re-shaping is to go ahead, I will throw down the gauntlet.

Can't you feel it, the tidal wave of democracy after the Brexit and Trump votes - the people flexing their democratic muscle in a way not seen for decades.

Be part of it and be remembered for stamping your mark on the politics of tomorrow.

I call on you and the other councils across Dorset, to put the case to central government for Dorset's new unitary authorities to adopt proportional representation for the first of their elections in 2019. After all that would be no more radical than replacing nine councils with just two, would it?

Liaise with the boundaries commission to design the new wards required for the Unitaries to cater for proportional representation. Use the research and advice already available from such bodies as the Electoral Reform Society.

More choice for voters, fewer wasted votes, greater turnouts and more diverse councils. What's not to like?

This system is already in place in Ireland and Scotland and is used by many UK student unions and the Church of England.

This will transform the politics of Dorset for the better and will happen sooner or later. Put yourselves at the forefront.

I say - True Democracy For Dorset!