

Appendix 5 - Review of Elected Member Roles

Interview Questionnaire

Interviewer: _____

Date:

Interviewee: _____

The purpose of this review is to describe and understand the views of elected members like yourself on the role of Councillors in a changing environment and on what they think is the right number of Councillors to represent the District in future and why.

All individual views will be anonymous.

Role(s) on Council:

Roles in Group:

Roles on external bodies:

How long have you been a Bradford District Councillor?

Changes Facing the Council

1. What are the main challenges facing the Council, and how are these affecting its role and the way it operates (Probe for budget, devolution (regional and local), engagement with residents; how we exercise leadership, etc)

(If the following aren't covered in the above, probe on what the impact on the Council might be of:

2. ...changes in policy areas?(health and social care; education; community safety; culture/sport)
3. ...changes in LCR/CA sub-regional devolution
4. ...changes in the role/scope of parish and town councils
5. ...changes in other local public service partners
6. ...changes in our relationship with the community and voluntary sector
7. ...changes in our relationship with the private sector
8. Do you expect members to take the lead in community asset transfer or in leading voluntary sector efforts to replace council services?

Number of Councillors on Bradford Council:

9. Some people have said that the Council should cut the numbers of elected members, would you agree with this view?
10. How many Councillors do you think Bradford District needs?
11. What are the main things that lead you to take these views?

If they agree that numbers should reduce ask:

12. How would you achieve this change? e.g reduce numbers of wards, reduce numbers of members per ward?
13. Do you think that every ward should have the same number of Councillors or do some areas need more than others?
14. So would you support the Council inviting the Boundary Commission to undertake a full review of local democratic arrangements?

Elections:

15. How often do you think elections to Bradford council should be held, for example, do you think we should continue to have elections three years out of four, move to all out elections every four years or adopt another system?
16. Do you have any specific reasons for your views?

Role of elected members

17. How do you think that changes to the role and functions of the Council will affect the job of District Councillors and the skills needed to do it? (Prompt for types of skills; leadership roles, etc.)
18. Do you think the average workloads of Councillors will increase or decrease or stay about the same?
19. Do you think that the Council offers the right support to Councillors to represent their wards effectively in a changing environment?
20. What could it change or improve on?
21. Do you think social media is having an impact on local democracy? If so, how?
22. How should the Council respond?

What else do you want to say about how the Council should change so it maintains or improves its effectiveness, despite the loss of resources and changes in the landscape of governance and control recently and in the next few years:

23. ...in terms of the political, democratic role of councillors
24. ...in terms of the leadership of the District
25. Is there anything more that you want to add about the future of local leadership, governance and the role of Councillors?