The Liberal Party welcomes submissions from non-members and organisation on subjects of mutual interest and concern.

Cllr Steve Radford, Leader of the Liberal Party commented on this piece on PR in local Government that In Liverpool our group recommended PR as an alternative to the current boundary review with three different sizes of wards.

Time for Real Democracy

PR for Local Government

Please read this.  It isn’t very long, and it is a call to action which will cost you nothing and take little of your time.

Turkeys don't like to vote for their own Christmas, but the turkeys at Westminster have voted for other politicians' Christmases. They introduced PR for all the devolved bodies and EU elections. I think the Commons will be the last domino to fall, so we should prioritise PR for local elections. In my view, we are unlikely to achieve PR for House of Commons elections until we have it for all other elections, so we should prioritise PR for other elections, and English and Welsh local government are the only other bodies that still don’t have some form of PR.

PR for local government is an essential step on the way to PR for general elections and there are some additional arguments for it that apply less to the Commons.  Although PR for the Commons is arguably more important than PR for any other bodies because the Commons is the most powerful body, I believe it is more urgent for local government because:

* Unlike the Commons, some local authorities have little or no opposition in the chamber, which makes the governing party virtually unaccountable, despite a significant number of votes for other parties;
* Unlike the Commons, some local authorities have been controlled by the same party for generations;
* Although the wrong party has won general elections only twice since the war (1951 and February 1974), it is not uncommon in local elections;
* It should be easier to sell the idea to underrepresented Labour supporters in strong Conservative areas and to underrepresented Conservative supporters in strong Labour areas.

The ERS passed a resolution at its AGM last year to campaign for PR in local government and, as a result of that, the ERS conducted a campaign earlier this year based on the London Borough Council elections. I suggest that all PR supporters follow that up with a campaign throughout England and Wales.  I hope that MVM, the ERS, Unlock Democracy and other pro-PR organizations would jointly lead that campaign.

*There are at least two ways that you can help individually without waiting for the PR organizations to set up a campaign:*

* *You can sign the ERS’s petition at* [*Electoral Reform Society (electoral-reform.org.uk)*](https://action.electoral-reform.org.uk/page/2401/petition/1?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ers-email&utm_campaign=local-democracy&utm_content=Local+STV+campaign+2022+(Members)&ea.url.id=5846708)
* *You can write letters to your local press and MP.  You may have local examples of bizarre FPTP results to add to my general points above.*

Kind regards,

Anthony Tuffin.