

MOTIONS ON NOTICE RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1. FROM COUNCILLORS P F A WEBSTER AND T G CUTMORE

The Proper Officer reports that the following Motion has been received from Councillors P F A Webster and T G Cutmore:-

"Rochford District Council considers that the implementation of the recent White Paper, "Your Region, Your Choice - Revitalising the English Region" published the Government in May, would not benefit the people of Rochford District for the following reasons:-

1. It proposes the abolition of County and District Councils and their replacement by larger unitary authorities - perhaps in Rochford's case amalgamation with Castle Point and Basildon - and regional assemblies which would be far more remote than Essex County Council.
2. The cost of regional assemblies, approximately £25 million a year, will be borne by Council tax payers.
3. The Government envisages that regional assemblies would have up to 25-35 members. On this basis it is most unlikely that the 75,000 residents of Rochford District would have even one elected member to wholly and only represent them.
4. The proposal for the East of England region includes Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk - a population of over 5,000,000 with little or no common objectives and interest.

For these reasons we believe Rochford residents would benefit far more if the Government provided greater financial assistance and did not make Rochford District Council increase its Council tax by 10 per cent - as it is for the current year - solely to finance Government Directives".

Sarah Fowler

Head of Member and Administrative Services

Background Papers:

Notice received.

For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

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