

ATTACHMENT B

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**"YES" AND "NO" REFERENDUM CASES**

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## YES case

1. Wards give you strong local representation for your particular area and ensure that Council hears specific knowledge about the area.
2. Councillors are responsible to the whole City's interests as well as interests of the local area. Councillors are also able to represent the interests of other wards as well as the one they were elected in.
3. Without wards, there is the risk that all or most councillors could be elected from the one local area, resulting in this area dominating Council at the expense of others. A ward system prevents this by ensuring equal numbers of Councillors are elected from different areas of the LGA. This also ensures a composite knowledge of all of the Council's area is present on the Council all the time.
4. Wards promote common interests within geographical areas and those interests can then be represented on Council.
5. It is less daunting and expensive for candidates to seek election as a ward councillor than to seek election in the City as a whole.
6. A system of wards reduces the administrative cost of by-elections. If a sitting councillor leaves office and a by-election has to be held; only eligible voters in the ward have to vote to fill the vacancy.
7. Communication to constituents could be more effectively targeted to the issues that matter most in the ward area.

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## NO case

1. Electing Councillors from the whole of the City area helps ensure they are involved in all local issues and all issues which affect the whole city area.
2. An undivided Council enables whole of City planning. This is essential to ensure strong links and connections, effective traffic management and coordinated services and facilities for the whole City and its diverse villages.
3. Expectations of local neighbourhood representation will be difficult to meet under a ward system because the three wards will each cover a large area, and will be much larger than the wards of previous councils.
4. Mechanisms other than ward representation can ensure local community interests are heard.
5. Councillors elected from the whole of the City area approach local issues in a fair, equitable and balanced way, free of conflicts which may face Councillors elected from wards.
6. Voters have a greater choice of candidates and councillors to represent them in an undivided council. With wards, voters can only choose from their ward candidates and may feel obliged to deal only with their specific ward councillors.
7. In an undivided Council everyone has an equal vote, regardless of where they live. This is not guaranteed in a ward system, as the number of voters in each ward may become unequal over time.