

COMMENT

Council should change system

THERE'S growing anger from opposition councillors at Fylde over meetings being held that they cannot take part in.

This stems back to the rule of former council leader John Coombes, who opted the authority into the cabinet system of governance.

This seemingly innocuous change meant that just seven of Fylde's 51 councillors get to ratify most of the decisions taken.

It's no wonder that the other councillors feel disenfranchised.

They work hard to represent their wards and us residents, but feel left out of the proceedings and unable to voice concerns raised with them.

Now, they fear cabinet meetings are being preceded by an 'informal' cabinet meeting not governed by council rules, and an easy way for cabinet members to make decisions without debating issues with others.

One council meeting was reported as taking just 12 minutes from start to finish.

The ruling group says that pre-meeting hearings are available for all parties before meetings - but no one can attend such briefings with the cabinet.

Why waste time and money holding several briefings from paid officers to different groups if they are simply briefings?

Surely one meeting should suit all. Unless decisions are being made...