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Submission: I oppose the forced amalgamation of Local Councils on the following grounds

1. There is no clear evidence that amalgamation leads to greater efficiency in every case. Savings can be made by co-operation as well as amalgamation.
2. Amalgamation is of most benefit to the inefficient Councils.
3. Where the forced amalgamation theory has been put into practice at considerable cost and has found not to have worked, it has had to have been unravelled also at considerable cost - to the ratepayers, not the Government which forced the change.
4. It should be up to the residents/ ratepayers of the Council areas to decide this matter, and not public servants who don't have to endure the consequences of their action.