

Durham County Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

It's not entirely clear at this stage what is being consulted upon. Re. the number of councillors the proposed reduction from 120 to 90+ is a very bad idea considering the volume of work for each councillor . DCC is not a purely strategic authority is a unitary authority combining both strategic and local council responsibilities. Re. the ward boundaries it is very important to concentrate on communities and to use the tolerance of numbers to achieve this - creating single member and multi-member wards to achieve this. When naming wards these should accurately correspond to the names of real communities. For example last time the ward of Elvet and Gilesgate was created and name as such even though the vast majority of the Gilesgate community is outside the Elvet and Gilesgate ward area. This has resulted in endless confusion. I understand that the existing councillors and political parties have been asked to produce suggested wards based on the 90+ model. This request is an invitation to 'gerrymander'. Some councillors and parties will have sufficient scruples to avoid this but it is already clear that some councillors and parties have grabbed the opportunity to create wards based on electoral advantage rather than communities.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded