

Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive
Gateshead Council
Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH



By email: sheena.ramsey@gateshead.gov.uk

16 May 2023

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF GATESHEAD: NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

Dear Sheena,

As you know, the LGBCE Commission Board has decided to launch a public consultation inviting proposals for how many councillors the Metropolitan Borough of Gateshead should have from the election to be held in 2026. The Commission does not usually hold consultations on the appropriate council size for individual authorities, but it reserves the right to do so. The reason for doing so is when the Commission receives competing proposed council sizes and wishes to gather further evidence on any proposed council size before coming to a decision.

I would be grateful if you would bring this consultation to the attention of all elected members of the council. I would also be grateful if you could use your regular communications channels to bring the consultation to the attention of residents and community groups and encourage elected members to do the same.

A public consultation inviting proposals will run from 16 May to 10 July 2023.

The Borough currently elects 66 councillors. In deciding the new number of councillors, we will consider:

- The way the Council is led, makes decisions, and operates.
- The way the Council's work is scrutinised by councillors in order to ensure that the Council is properly run and publicly accountable.
- The Council's interaction with, and representation, on other local and regional bodies

We will test proposals made to us against these criteria before making a decision on the council size options presented to us.

This means that proposals made to us must demonstrate how they meet the criteria. We will take decisions based on the strength of the argument and not merely on assertion. For example, giving details in a proposal of how the council does and could carry out its functions will carry greater weight than a proposal that simply asserts support for a certain number of councillors.

We consider all proposals on their merits. A well-evidenced proposal from an individual which addresses the criteria will be more persuasive than one which does not.

Our website at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gateshead-0 contains links to useful information. Views can be submitted through the site or:

by email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

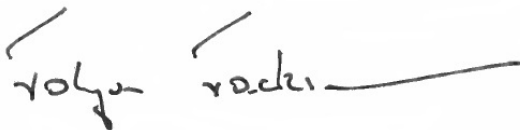
by post: Review Officer (Gateshead)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

We will carefully consider all views received during this phase of consultation, and plan to publish proposals for the new council size in August 2023. Public consultation on warding arrangements is scheduled to take place between August and October 2023. There will then be a consultation on our draft ward proposals between January and March 2024.

We will again take time to carefully consider views made to us during that consultation and intend to publish final proposals in June 2024.

New electoral arrangements for the authority are scheduled to come into effect at the council elections in May 2026.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jolyon Jackson OBE
Chief Executive

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0TL
SB: 0330 500 1525

cc Councillor Martin Gannon, Leader of the Council