

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Denise Robson
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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

I regard the proposition that the number of councillors in Gateshead be reduced to 51 as a cynical tactic to afford opposition parties greater representation outwith the ballot box. I therefore reject this fundamentally. The funding to Gateshead Council has been shockingly reduced since 2010. This has had an appalling impact on the residents of Gateshead, especially those already living in poverty. Covid only exacerbated this. The work to support our constituents becomes ever more time-consuming, with casework mounting in volume every month. Any move to becoming part of a Mayoral Authority, a decision we may have to take purely to obtain a minimal increase in funding support, irrespective of whether forced devolution is actually a coherent notion, will only add to the complexity of our work and the liaison work it will entail. Finally, in a representative democracy, it is important to include the voice of the carer, the single parent and those in employment in the body of councillors making decisions on behalf of local people. By increasing the workload, the body of councillors will become that much less representative, affecting the legitimacy of decision-making. It would therefore be a disastrous move, if agreed.

Attached Documents:

None attached