

Gateshead

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: All

I disagree with reducing the number of Councillors and extending the size of wards.

I understand this measure is being proposed by one political grouping as a cost saving measure, however, the reduction in the number of Councillors could result in a democratic deficit.

It also reflects the lack of engagement and the level of community service that particular political grouping currently offers to its electorate, which is qualitatively less than that offered by the controlling group members.

As a serving Councillor I already have a very substantial workload, mainly attending meetings, contributing to policy development, scrutiny, dealing with individual issues and queries on behalf of local residents and liaising and working with local groups. Labour Councillors are effective in overseeing the development and implementation of policies to benefit our electorate.

They are community champions and understand their place as democratically elected representatives for their community.

Unfortunately member of the other political grouping rarely attend events or Council meetings and, other than through their Leader and Deputy, play a minimal role in policy development, scrutiny or making contributions to the work of the Council.

A larger workload would mean that the role of Councillor would become the equivalent of a full time job and would limit the range of people who would then put themselves forward for the role. It would also create an even greater democratic deficit for those wards that currently experience the poor level of service given by LibDem Councillors.

Attached Documents:

None attached