

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Not applicable (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Number of councillors

Currently Gateshead Council has three councillors per ward (66 in total) yet we are always hearing about cuts to local services/facilities due to lack of funding. If funding is so tight, why is it necessary to have so many councillors per ward/overall? In my particular ward (Birtley) and experience, unless residents lodge a query/complaint we tend to only hear regularly from the recently elected Liberal Democrat councillor (both pre- and post-election), unless we are close to a local/general election when all of a sudden we get the odd communication from the Labour councillor/party. Considering they hold the majority number of seats in our council I feel sadly let down by a general lack of involvement with actual residents. Residents in my immediate area are very proactive in trying to keep our surroundings clean and respectable by, for example, following and clearing up after council workers carry out now less frequent grass cutting services, by litter picking, etc.etc. By streamlining the number of councillors the money/expenses paid to them, in my opinion, would be much better spent improving the working conditions of council employees and the fundamental services we pay our council tax for.

Attached Documents:

None attached