

Gateshead

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: I'd like to provide an opinion based on the overall impact that moving boundaries is likely to have on certain areas within the Borough of Gateshead and in particular the more deprived areas which have been neglected by Gateshead Council for decades

I would like to have more information on where the boundaries are likely to lie and what the present population is in each Ward, so that residents can consider the implications of such a change and would like to know whether it was central government or the local council who have asked for boundary changes since I'm particularly concerned that if this was a Council decision that the Council will knowingly cause the further decline of deprived areas within the Borough of Gateshead. Gateshead Councillors and Council staff are well known for ignoring the opinions of residents and businesses as has been the case for decades and this has even reached the point where those voicing valid opinions are denied the information they request and are insulted and disparaged in an attempt to discredit those individuals who raise concerns over the integrity of the decisions being made by Gateshead Councillors and Council staff.

I am concerned that many Gateshead Residents and Businesses will not even be aware that there is a possibility that boundaries and Ward names could be changed and am surprised that Gateshead Council (and Councillors) have not provided those living or working in Gateshead with more information - the most recent Gateshead Council Seasonal magazine noted online is the Summer edition and there is no mention of boundary changes in that Magazine, while those living in Gateshead were supposed to receive a hard copy of the Council magazine but they have never arrived, I only became aware of these new proposals when I looked on the Councils website and that information was not on a banner on the Councils home page but was noted on other pages.

Taking into account the tiny amount of information provided by Gateshead Council in relation to boundary changes I was particularly concerned

by one paragraph as copied below

'It is reviewing Gateshead to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. It wants to be sure that its proposals reflect community ties and identities.22 Aug 2023

Have your say on a new political map for Gateshead Council

image.png

Gateshead Council'

Having seen Gateshead Council neglect certain areas such as Felling within the Borough of Gateshead while redeveloping and spending huge amounts of money in other areas such as Saltwell (where I believe the previous Leader of Gateshead Council lived) the idea of altering boundaries and renaming boundary sites does raise concerns, infact I wonder whether renaming Wards has already began in Gateshead having for years seen one Ward being named Saltwell and Bensham but now only named as Saltwell and the Ward of Lobley Hill now being names as Bensham and Lobley Hill.

The Paragraph noted above would appear to indicate that you want individuals of a certain type or a certain belief to be grouped together - personally I want to see integration not segregation and I'm concerned that decisions made by Councillors and Council staff to move boundaries will be more out of self interest rather than in the interest of residents and businesses.

Considering the Borough of Gateshead as North, South, East, West and Central and viewing the Wards within those areas I question whether those less desirable areas will be merged and the areas that Gateshead Council have spent huge amounts on to improve will have those less desirable areas removed from those Wards. I would hope that I'm wrong, but having seen the underhand actions of Gateshead Councillors and Council Staff over the years I doubt it.

At this present time and having been provided with so little information I would disagree with the idea that boundaries and Ward names should be altered. As a resident having lived in the East of Gateshead I have seen the rapid decline of this areas over recent years and we can largely blame this problem on inadequate Councillors, some of whom have been seen to support their 'friends' when various decisions have had to be made.

In the East of Gateshead we now see serious traffic congestion, yet these areas do not have sensors in place to check for toxins in the air, even though for some unknown reason there has been a sensor in place close to the Angel of the North for years!! (the Angel of the North does not attract a huge number of visitors and is not close to homes while the A1 is a motorway so trying to divert traffic from that site would seen unreasonable, we see some streets within the area with 20 mph restrictions and some streets closed off to traffic while other less suitable streets suffer from unreasonable levels of traffic and while there has never been a problem with addicts in the area in the past this problem is becoming

noticeable and I question whether this is because Gateshead Council staff are now housing addicts or criminals in this area rather than providing housing for those with problems equally throughout the Borough.

I also question why in the paragraph noted above there is reference made to 'community ties and identities' and I'm concerned by that statement, since I would expect individuals and families who need a home (whether immigrants or those moving into the area, or those with problems) to be found homes throughout the Borough and not concentrated in small areas as can be seen (and heard) in the East of Gateshead - as already stated segregation is in no ones interest, although I have been told that Gateshead Council have recently approved residential planning applications based on religious beliefs.

Looking at the map that shows the Wards within the North, South, East, West and Central of Gateshead - if Gateshead Council were to move boundaries within the East of Gateshead and those boundaries were able to take in Wards from adjacent geographical areas then this will no doubt further the decline of the East of Gateshead.

Rather than changing Ward boundaries, questions should be asked as to why the East of Gateshead is being so neglected by Gateshead Council even though it was previously a nice place to live and it is about time there was a record showing how much of Gateshead Council funds are being spent and for what purpose in each Ward in the Borough rather than that information being hidden.

Without further valid information I do not believe that boundaries should be altered or Wards should be renamed and I question why no political party has contacted residents and provided information on this issue or voiced an opinion.

Attached Documents:

None attached