

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Gatesheads Council Tax charge is very high. Admittedly this is partly because of the relatively large number of lower value properties within Gateshead Metropolitan Council area. However, the cost of operating Gateshead Council is also a part of Council Tax charge.

The number of Coucillors that are represented on Gatehead Council has been steady at 66 (three per ward in each of 22 wards) for many years. Since 2010, or thereabouts, the number of functions that Gateshead Council carries out has been reduced and therefore there should be less need for as many Councillors on Gateshead Council.

The current Gateshead Council structure has three Councillors representing each ward, with each Councillor being elected for a three-year term. This means that there is an election held in each ward every year. If the number of Councillors was reduced to two per ward and each Councillor was elected for a four-year term, the number of elections being held would be reduced by 50%, with an associated reduction in costs. With the current number of wards, the total number of Councillors on gateshead Council would be reduced to 44, rather than the current 66, which should reduce the cost of the Councillors as headcount would have been reduced by 33%.

Also, I beleive that reducing the number of Councillors on Gateshead Council to two per ward would bring the average number of people represented by each Councillor nearer to the national average value for Metropolitan Councils in England.

Attached Documents:

None attached