

Gateshead

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Introduction:

Gateshead, with its current council structure, stands out among other metropolitan districts in the north due to its significantly lower number of residents per councillor. This imbalance creates an opportunity to reshape the council and ensure greater efficiency, accountability, and fair representation. By advocating for a reduction in the number of councillors, we can align Gateshead with its counterparts while delivering improved governance and significant cost savings.

Efficiency through Optimal Representation:

Gateshead's current ratio of residents per councillor is considerably lower than that of other metropolitan districts in the north. This disparity places an unnecessary burden on councillors and compromises their ability to effectively serve their constituents. By reducing the number of councillors, we can strike a balance that allows representatives to dedicate ample time and resources to their duties. This increased efficiency enables councillors to engage more deeply with their constituents, address their concerns promptly, and deliver more effective outcomes for the community.

Enhanced Accountability:

A smaller council size promotes better accountability among councillors. With fewer representatives, it becomes easier to monitor and evaluate their performance, ensuring they remain responsive and engaged with the needs of the community. Councillors will have more time and resources to devote to their responsibilities, enabling them to actively listen, collaborate, and take decisive actions. This enhanced accountability fosters trust and strengthens the relationship between the council and its residents, paving the way for more effective governance.

Financial Savings and Resource Allocation:

Maintaining an excessive number of councillors comes at a significant cost to the taxpayers of Gateshead. By reducing the council size, we can achieve substantial financial savings that can be redirected to essential services and infrastructure improvements. These savings would allow the council to allocate resources more efficiently, focusing on priority areas such as education, healthcare, and community development. By adopting a leaner council structure, Gateshead can enhance its financial sustainability while continuing to provide quality services to its residents.

Fair and Representative Democracy:

A smaller council size in Gateshead would contribute to a fairer and more representative democracy. The current disparity in the number of residents per councillor can inadvertently result in certain areas being overrepresented, diluting the voice of others. By aligning Gateshead with the national average and its metropolitan district counterparts, we ensure a more equitable distribution of seats and give every resident an equal opportunity for representation. This shift would promote diversity, encourage participation from underrepresented communities, and foster a truly inclusive democratic process.

Conclusion:

By advocating for a reduction in the number of councillors in Gateshead, we can strive for greater efficiency, accountability, and fair representation. Aligning Gateshead with the national average and the ratios seen in other metropolitan districts will optimize representation, enhance accountability, realize significant cost savings, and promote a more inclusive democracy. It is time to embrace this change, ensuring that Gateshead's council is equipped to serve its residents effectively and meet the evolving needs of the community.

Attached Documents:

None attached