

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name: Ms Julie Simpson

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Organisation Name: Gateshead Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: The numbers of councillors on the council

The local ward area has experienced additional housing development and is earmarked for further housing development.

I believe that the council should have 69 members of the council, due to previous housing development which has impacted upon residential numbers / households. There is an excessive amount of housing development due to changes to national planning legislation. People naturally want to live in rural parts of Gateshead.

Increases in the population has naturally impacted upon demands on the local authority, and believe the size of the wards across the borough is potentially excluding the future recruitment of people / councillors who work full time, as the workload is potentially unmanageable.

The size of wards needs to be realistic, and should include communities that have cultural commonality . We also need to consider the demands that devolution will bring in 2024.

It is estimated that councillor casework has trebled since the last boundary changes made in 2004.

Councillors currently deal with an estimated minimum of 15 issues per week. That is 88 hours a month on casework (over a 4 week period) .I believe this is not sustainable .

Workload needs to be realistic, if we are to encourage and promote democracy with fair and geographical balanced / spread representation.

Attached Documents:

None attached