

Durham County Council

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

The reduction in councillors would impact on workload for individual members would result in it being unreasonable affecting members ability to represent their electorate adequately and effectively. This would also impact on the recruiting and retaining councillors from all backgrounds and age groups and no longer provide them with an attractive and meaningful role which at the same time offers a reasonable work-life balance. There would also be insufficient members to effectively carry the workload of Durham County Council There are considerable demands placed on members of the council and since it has a wide range of geography and population, the present size of the council, with 126 members, is the minimum requirement for a fit-for-purpose County Durham Council.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

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Instead of reducing councillors there should be increased:- Augments for increasing elected councillors in Co Durham The present parameters of electorate to representative ratios should be thoroughly reconsidered and additional factors taken into account such as: council performance, councillor time and resources, deprivation, levels of civic engagement and population mobility and non-registered and/or ineligible populations. Therefore increased numbers of elected representatives in relation to meeting such objectives as delivering effective governance, policy making and increasing civic engagement. Areas could be allocated a number of elected representatives on the basis of socio-economic characteristics. increases in the number of elected representatives could be part of a portfolio of measures put in place to drive forward civic renewal and for tackling deprivation - just as councils in England are compensated in economic terms for higher input costs in certain parts of the country. The role of additional elected representatives could be focused on building links between local authorities and residents to develop policies that tackle social problems in them area. In political terms these elected representatives could be either proportionate to reflect the balance of power or as independent representatives with a specific community consultation role. This developing stronger local governance within county Durham

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County Durham's population and electorate (500,096 and 394,940 respectively in 2008) suggests that a council size well in excess of 100 Members will be necessary to deliver effective representation in an area affected by the combined issues of sparsity and deprivation.

Uploaded Documents:

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