**GATESHEAD GREEN PARTY.**

We are shocked THAT AT THIS LATE STAGE you have mercilessly chopped up our Borough (Gateshead and a principal authority), into 4 constituencies.

In stages 1 & 2 you showed how 2 constituencies could match perfectly to our Borough's boundary.

Now you have gone against ALL your 5 guiding principles of 1) **Special geographical considerations, 2) local government boundaries, 3) boundaries of existing constituencies,**

**4) Local ties and 5) resulting inconvenience.**

**THESE WILL ALL BE BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.**

1. **Special geographical considerations and 2) local government boundaries.**Gateshead’s eastern boundary follows the escarpment recognised by the Romans who built what is now Leam Lane along it.

To the west in our Borough the land soon rises to 160 metres at Whitehills Nature Park. To the east of Leam Lane the land falls to under 60 metres.

Here you are now in the wide River Don Valley flood plain. You also enter the local government areas of South Tyneside (Hebburn, Jarrow & The Boldons), and of Sunderland (Washington). **So Gateshead is an area of quite different geographical character that has been matched by the principal authority boundaries. THIS WILL BE BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.**

**Gateshead’s low hills and therefore different geographical character continues westward for about 5 kilometres.** Then its land falls quite steeply to River Team flood plain. The geography of the River, which drains from south to north, allows Gateshead Borough to have a south spur to Birtley. Birtley is near in distance to central Gateshead than to central Durham City. **The existing local government boundary between Gateshead and Durham is therefore rightly at the south end of Birtley. THIS WILL BE BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.**

In its southern area Gateshead Borough since its foundation has always had a narrow coastal plain on the south bank of the River Tyne, then quite steeply rising up to rolling hills to a maximum of 250 metres. This is split south to north by the River Derwent in quite a steep valley. **The existing local government boundary between Gateshead and Durham is therefore rightly at about the midway point in distance down the Derwent Valley at Blackhall Mill and Hamsterley.**

**THIS WILL BE BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.** At least you have still followed your geographical principal and not crossed our great River Tyne!!!

**3) Boundaries of existing constituencies.**

In your first 2 rounds of development you recognise that Gateshead Borough at present has 2 constituencies –Blaydon & Gateshead fully within the Borough boundary.

You then look at 2 March 2020, which is of course your legally required date for establishing the electorate numbers.

You find from this that the electorate numbers (between 69,724 and 77,062), for new constituencies would perfectly fit 2 constituencies within Gateshead Borough boundaries.

**For 2 rounds of public consultation since 2020 you propose 2 constituencies exclusively for Gateshead.**

**THEN THIS IS BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.**

**4) Local ties.**

Local ties of the 22 wards in Gateshead, with Jarrow, Hebburn and The Boldons in South Tyneside, with Hylton and Washington in Sunderland, and with Consett and Shotley Bridge in County Durham are very limited.

In local community & accessibility terms

1) In proposed Washington Const. - Our rural Lamesley Ward has no identity or direct public transport with inner city Hylton in Sunderland.

2) Similarly in proposed Jarrow Const. - our Windy Nook & Whitehills Ward has no identity or direct public transport with West Boldon.

3) Similarly in proposed Blaydon & Consett Const. - Our semi-rural Crawcrook & Greenside Ward has no identity and little connection with the former steel town of Consett.

**Residents of County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland will predominantly be travelling through Gateshead to reach the North East’s regional capital Newcastle upon Tyne.**

Newcastle is the dominant attraction for employment, longer distance travel including rail & aviation (the Regional Airport), shopping, sport (notably Newcastle United), night life (a UK leader in this), academia (2 universities), shopping, health (RVI & Freeman Hospitals) etc.  
**Therefore Newcastle has many more local ties with residents of the above 3 Boroughs than Gateshead when they leave their immediate local area for some reason.**

**Conversely Gateshead residents seek basic services locally such as the weekly shop and GP visits. They will also travel predominantly to Newcastle for ‘higher level’ needs.**

**LOCAL TIES ARE BE BREACHED IN YOUR LAST MINUTE PROPOSALS.**

**5) Resulting inconvenience.**

**Finally considerable inconvenience results from putting wards of Gateshead in 3 other Boroughs.**

Gateshead residents will feel that there MP is unlikely to prioritise their issues over those of their largest centres of population of Jarrow/Hebburn, Washington/ Hylton and Consett.  
There are ongoing live disputes which are likely to be aggravated. For example in the proposed Blaydon & Consett constituency, the current MP for North West Durham is promoting the reopening of the railway line between Consett and Blaydon. However most residents of Blaydon Constituency and their current MP oppose this.   
There will be considerable additional burden & financial costs on all 4 principal authorities.  
Much more time will be taken up liaising between them.

Gateshead Borough has not had its Parliamentary representation split 4 ways within living memory.

**WE STRONLY OBJECT TO SUCH A RADICAL REDRAWING OF THE MAP AT THIS LATE AND FINAL STAGE.**

There is no opportunity for face to face presentations (real or virtual). Only 3 weeks at busy Christmas time to submit objections.

*November 2022.*

*Contact: support@gateshead.greenparty.org.uk*