

# Further clarification: electoral division boundaries in County Durham

This paper has been sent to:

- Durham County Council
- Parish and town councils affected by the Boundary Committee's proposed electoral arrangements for divisions in County Durham
- Local MPs and MEPs
- Local political groups
- Any local residents who have made submissions to us

Copies of this paper can also be downloaded from our website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

## What is the Boundary Committee for England?

We are a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. Our main role is to conduct electoral reviews of local authorities in England with the aim of ensuring the number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same. Other duties include reviewing local authority boundaries and advising the Government on local authority bids for unitary status.

## Background

### Electoral review in County Durham

The aim of this electoral review is to provide fair electoral arrangements for the new County Durham unitary authority.

The review began on 15 July 2008. After an initial council size stage the Boundary Committee agreed that the new council should have 126 members. The first consultation stage started on 17 March 2009 and ended on 8 June 2009. The Committee published its Draft Recommendations on 15 September 2009. The second consultation stage started on 15 September 2009 and end on 7 December 2009.

During the first consultation stage we received 58 submissions. During the second consultation stage we received 243 submissions, including several entirely new proposals for parts of the county. The submissions and the draft recommendations are available for viewing on the Committee's website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk).

## Areas on which we would like views

In response to the Committee's draft recommendations, we received a number of alternative proposals that were supported by good evidence. However, because these proposals have not been formally consulted upon and to help us put forward the most appropriate recommendations for these areas, the Committee would like to hear further local views. In this document we explain the options. Please tell us which option you prefer, taking care to explain your reasons.

We are holding further consultations in the following areas:

- 1. Chester-le-Street North**  
(including North Lodge)
- 2. Chester-le-Street South**  
(including Waldrige)
- 3. Durham City and the surrounding area**  
(including Langley Moor, Shincliffe, Belmont, Framwellgate Moor, Newton Hall and the unparished city area)
- 4. Tow Law and Crook**  
(including the Hill Top villages)
- 5. Great Aycliffe**
- 6. Shildon**
- 7. South East of Durham City**  
(including Spennymoor, Ferryhill, Bishop Middleham, Cornforth, Sedgefield, the Trimdons, South Hetton, Shotton and Sherburn)

We have sent you the consultation document for the area in which you live. If you would like to see the consultation documents for the other areas, please visit our website: [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

We are not at this time seeking views on our draft recommendations for other parts of County Durham.

This consultation paper is being sent to those local residents who made a submission to us during our consultation stages. However, additional consultation papers can be downloaded from our website.

# Further clarification: electoral division boundaries in Great Aycliffe

Our consideration of submissions received and the need for further views

Our draft recommendation for the Chester-le-Street North area was for a three-member Aycliffe North, the Dales & Middridge division, a two-member Aycliffe Central division and a two-member Aycliffe East division.

In response to our draft recommendations, Great Aycliffe Residents' Association submitted a new proposal which would result in the transfer the Newton Aycliffe area, south of the railway line to a two-member Aycliffe Central ward. We acknowledge it provides for clearly defined division boundaries, although it produces slightly higher electoral variances by 2013.

We consider this proposal has merit. However, we are concerned that it was not proposed during the first stage of consultation and has therefore not had the benefit of being considered by all interested parties locally.

We are therefore seeking views on two proposals for divisions in Great Aycliffe which are detailed on the following page. One is our draft recommendations and the other is the proposal from Great Aycliffe Residents Association. Maps showing both options are enclosed. Once you have decided which option you prefer, please email us (stating your preference clearly) or post the enclosed form back to us.

It is important that you tell us not only which option you prefer, but also why this is the case and provide evidence in support of your view.

## Option one: draft recommendations by the Boundary Committee

This proposal is our draft recommendation for this area, and is based on the County Council's original suggestion.

<b>Division Name</b>	<b>Number of Cllrs</b>	<b>Number of Electors 2008</b>	<b>Variance from the average 2008*</b>	<b>Number of Electors 2013</b>	<b>Variance from the average 2013</b>
Aycliffe Central	2	5799	-7%	5877	-8%
Aycliffe East	2	6328	1%	6191	-3%
Aycliffe North, the Dales and Middridge	3	8566	-9%	8871	-7%

## Option two: proposal from Great Aycliffe Residents' Association

This is the proposal from the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association. It proposes that Aycliffe Central should be re-named Aycliffe West and makes a number of alterations to the draft recommendations. Newton Aycliffe would be included in the Aycliffe West division. The area to the north-east of Macmillian Road would be included in Aycliffe East.

<b>Division Name</b>	<b>Number of Cllrs</b>	<b>Number of Electors 2008</b>	<b>Variance from the average 2008</b>	<b>Number of Electors 2013</b>	<b>Variance from the average 2013</b>
Aycliffe East	2	6586	5%	6490	2%
Aycliffe North & Middridge	3	8194	-13%	8484	-11%
Aycliffe West	2	5913	-6%	5965	-6%

Maps detailing both options are enclosed with this paper. There are two maps: one map showing Option One and one map showing Option two.

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\* Variance from the average: we try to ensure that each councillor represents as close as possible to the same number of electors. The average number of electors per councillor in County Durham in 2008 is 3,134, so a councillor in a division with 2,990 electors is representing 143 (5%) fewer electors than the average. The average number of electors per councillor in 2013 is predicted to be 3,187.

## Making a representation

Please send submissions to the Boundary Committee for England by **26 March 2010**. We are unable to consider responses received after this date. Tell us clearly:

- Which option you prefer
- Why this option is better than the other option

Please feel free to refer to evidence you may already have provided to us. However, additional evidence and further comments would strengthen the case for your chosen option. We welcome responses in writing by post, email or fax.

Please send your response to the questions raised in this consultation to:

The Review Manager  
Durham Electoral Review  
The Electoral Commission  
Trevelyan House  
30 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW  
Tel: 020 7271 0500  
Fax: 020 7271 0505  
Email: [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

# Further clarification: electoral division boundaries in Great Aycliffe

## Feedback form

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **26 March 2010**. We will be unable to consider responses received after this date.

**Name** .....

**Organisation** .....

Please tick the option you prefer and would like to see implemented.

Option one  
Draft recommendations by the Boundary Committee

Option two  
Proposal from Great Aycliffe Residents' Association

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us why you prefer this option. Please feel free to attach any further evidence or additional information to this form.

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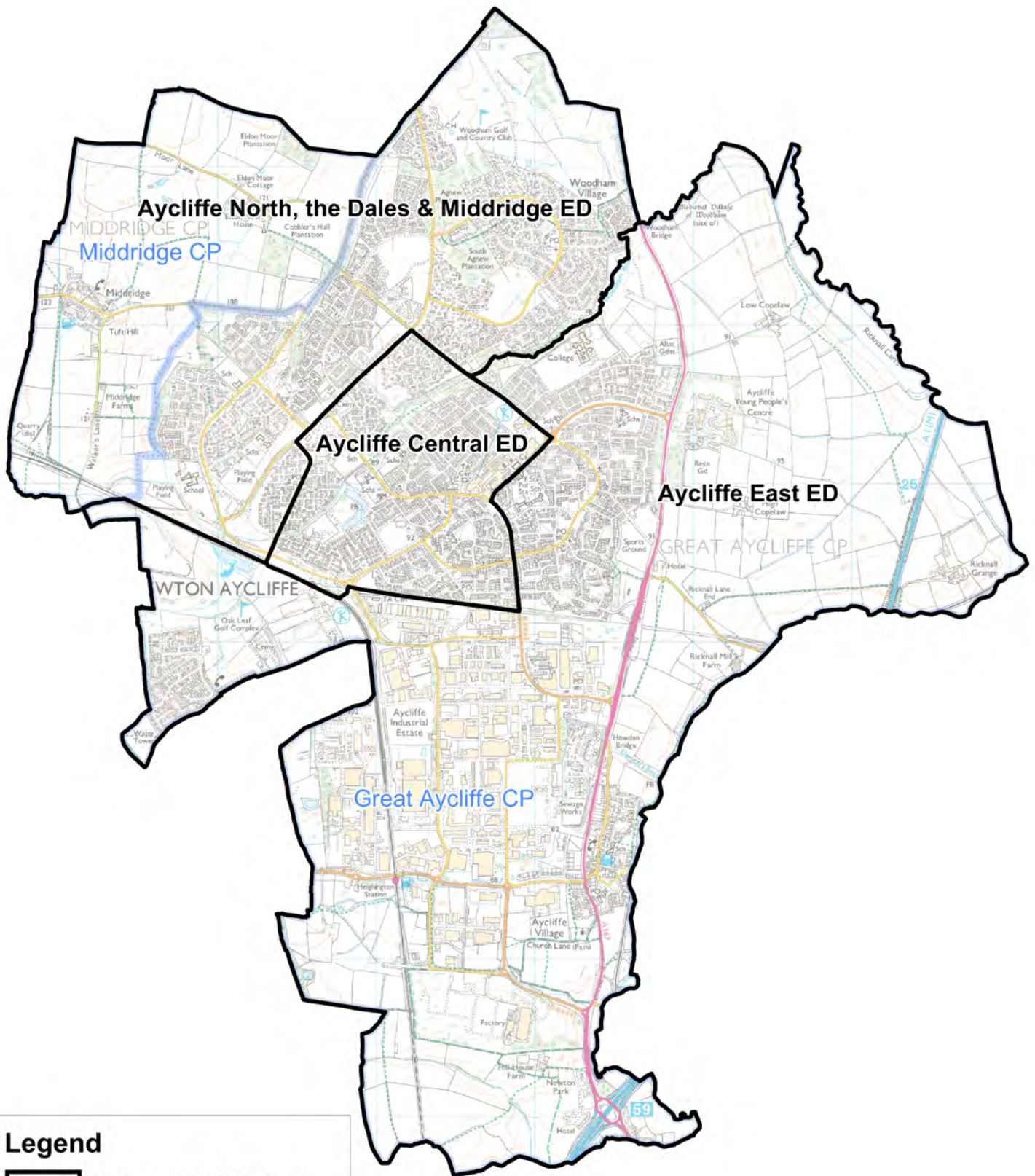
.....

**Please send this form to:**



The Review Manager  
County Durham Electoral Review  
The Electoral Commission  
Trevelyan House  
30 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Tel: 020 7271 0500  
Fax: 020 7271 0505  
Email: [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

# Option One: Great Aycliffe

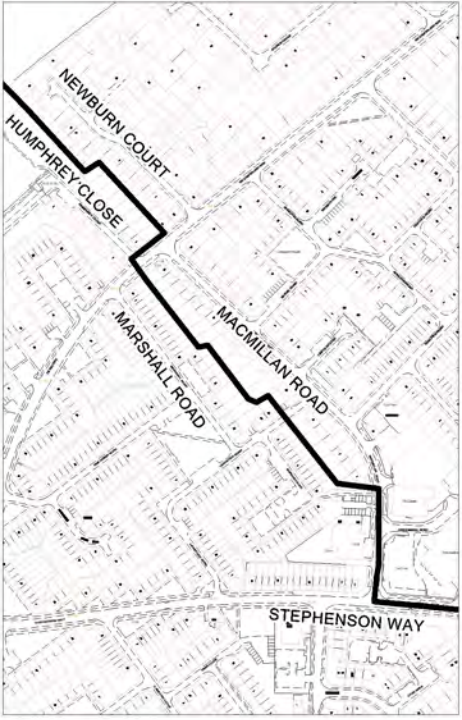
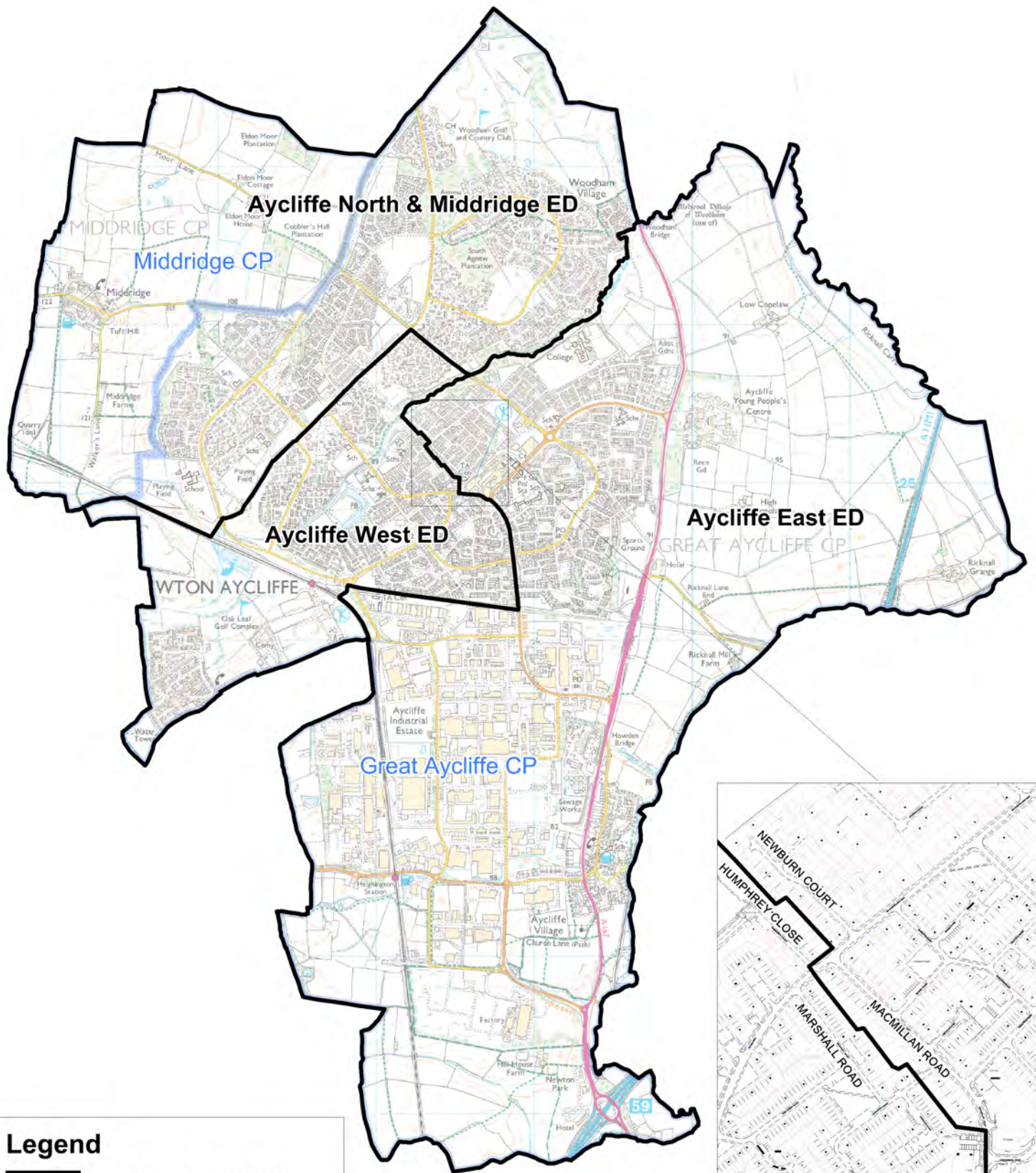


## Legend

-  Proposed divisions
-  Parish boundaries

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# Option Two: Great Aycliffe



**Legend**

-  Proposed divisions
-  Parish boundaries

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