

Proposed New Electoral Pattern

CHESTER-LE-STREET AREA

Chester-le-Street North and East

The current Division comprises the communities of Chester-le-Street Town Centre and South Pelaw. Whilst electoral equality is good, the Council believes that the current arrangements do not reflect community identity. These arrangements are a consequence of the last boundary review which saw the North Lodge area (formerly linked with Chester-le-Street Town) transferred to the Pelton Division. This alignment has not worked as the North Lodge area has stronger geographical affinity with Chester-le-Street Town as well as communication and educational links. The Council proposes therefore to transfer the North Lodge area back into Chester-le-Street North and East. The Council understands this move would have the overwhelming support of people in the area.

This move alone, however, would have a major impact on the electoral equality of the Division. The Council therefore proposes to transfer out of the current Division and into the Pelton Division the South Pelaw area which is geographically closer to Pelton and has good communication and educational links.

These proposals would have clear geographical boundaries and achieve good electoral equality for both the Chester-le-Street North and East, and Pelton Divisions.

To address electoral equality in the Chester-le-Street West Central Electoral Division the Council also proposes a transfer of electorate from the Chester-le-Street North and East Division.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6598 (+ 5.3%)	6505 (+ 2%)
Transfer to Pelton Polling District	B	2361	2287
Add from Pelton North Lodge Polling Districts	AP AR	1888 560	1806 540
Transfer to Chester-le-Street West Central Part of Polling District (to Clifford Terrace)	Z	525 6160 (- 1.7%)	525 6039 (- 5.3%)

***Chester-le-Street South**

This Division has clear community interest and well established boundaries. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6538 (+ 4.3%)	6404 (+ 0.5%)

***Chester-le-Street West Central**

Whilst the Division has a clear identity, its electorate is marginally too small and that situation is projected to worsen. In response, the Council proposes a transfer of electorate from the Chester-le-Street North and East Division (part of Polling District Z, i.e. those properties north of and including Clifford Terrace). This proposal restores a former Electoral Division boundary and the area has a stronger association with the Chester-le-Street West Central Division. The resultant electoral equality is good.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5458(- 12.9%)	5244 (- 17.7%)
Add from Chester-le-Street North and East Part of Polling District (to Clifford Terrace)	Z	525
	5983 (- 4.5%)	5769 (- 9.5%)

***Lumley**

This Division comprises the clearly identifiable communities of Great Lumley, Bournmoor and Woodstone Village. Whilst electoral equality is acceptable in 2008 it is projected to fall marginally below the normal tolerance in 2013. However, the Council believes that any further boundary revisions in this area would be problematic for the overall electoral pattern given its position adjacent to the Sunderland City Council area and its other very strongly defined boundaries.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5818 (-7.2%)	5582 (-12.4%)

***Ouston and Urpeth**

This Division comprises the settlements of Ouston, Urpeth, Beamish, West Pelton and Grange Villa. Electoral equality is acceptable and the Council believes that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5896 (-5.9%)	5876 (- 7.8%)

Pelton

The current Division comprises the communities of Pelton and North Lodge. The proposal for this Division reflects the comments made previously in relation to the Chester-le-Street North and East Division. Electoral equality would remain good.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6504(+ 3.8%)	6344 (- 0.5%)
Transfer to CLS North & East North Lodge Polling Districts			
	AP	1888	1806
	AR	560	540
Add from CLS North & East Polling District	B	2361	2287
		6417 (+ 2.4%)	6285 (- 1.4%)

*Sacriston

The current Division is too small in electoral terms and that situation is projected to worsen. In response the Council has taken advantage of no longer being restricted by District Council boundaries and proposes the transfer of electorate from Witton Gilbert Parish (currently in the neighbouring Framwellgate Moor Division) which is more readily identifiable as having long established and close links with its neighbouring Sacriston community. The resultant electoral equality is just acceptable, but much improved.

		2008	2013
Electorate		4926 (- 21.4%)	4839 (- 24%)
Add from Framwellgate Moor Witton Gilbert Parish Polling District	DW	2073	2153
		6999 (+ 11.7%)	6992 (+ 9.7%)

DERWENTSIDE AREA

*Annfield Plain

This Division comprises the clearly identifiable communities of Annfield Plain and Catchgate and their smaller associated villages. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6421 (+2.4%)	6567 (+3.0%)

*Benfieldside

The current Division is too small in electoral terms and that situation is projected to worsen. In response, the Council proposes a transfer of electorate from Shotley Park, East Law and the St Mary's Hill area of Blackhill (currently part of the neighbouring Leadgate and Medomsley and Consett North Divisions) which are more readily identifiable as having links to the Benfieldside community. The resultant electoral equality would be acceptable.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5266 (- 16%)	5150 (- 19.2%)

Transfer from Leadgate to
Benfieldside
Polling District

MG	602	606
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Transfer from Leadgate
Part - Polling District
(East Law)

MA	91	91
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Transfer from Consett North
to Benfieldside
Polling District
Polling District

OB	609	589
OC	324	336

	6892 (+ 9.9%)	6772 (+ 6.2%)
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*Craghead and South Moor

The Division clearly reflects these two communities. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6079 (-3.0%)	6361 (-0.2%)

*Consett North

Although electoral equality in this Division is currently acceptable, the Council proposes a transfer of some electorate with more natural community links to the Benfieldside area (see Benfieldside Division for more detail) to improve electoral equality in that Division. Electoral equality in Consett North would remain acceptable and is projected to improve.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6712 (+ 7.1%)	7101 (+ 11.4%)
Transfer from Consett North to Benfieldside			
Polling District	OB	609	589
Polling District	OC	324	336
		5779 (- 7.8%)	6176 (- 3.1%)

*Consett South

The current Delves Lane and Consett South Division is excessively large in terms of electorate. The proposal to create a new single Member Division reflects the recognised community of Moorside and the Grove which is geographically separated from other parts of its former Division and lacking in any other identifiable links.

Although this proposal initially produces an electorate outside the normal tolerance, this is set to regularise in the projection as the area is the subject of a major regeneration project.

(NB This proposal would result in one additional Member in this area).

		2008	2013
Transfer from Delves Lane and Consett South			
Polling District	QA	1193	1210
Polling District	QB	1376	1722
		2569 (- 18%)	2932 (- 8%)

New Single Member Division

*Burnopfield and Dipton

This Division comprises the clearly identifiable communities of Burnopfield and Dipton and their smaller associated villages. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6225 (- 0.7%)	6167 (- 3.2%)

*Delves Lane

The excess imbalance of electorate in this Division is addressed by the earlier proposal for a new Consett South Division. The remainder of the Division is strong on community identity. On current figures electoral equality would be good and although the resultant projected electorate is marginally outside the normal tolerance, any further transfer of electorate from this Division would not reflect community identity and would result in boundaries without any real geographical reasoning. It is suggested this Division be re-named **Delves Lane**.

		2008	2013
Electorate		8645 (+ 38%)	9968 (+ 56.4%)
Transfer from Delves Lane and Consett South to New Consett South Division			
Polling District	QA	1193	1210
Polling District	QB	1376	1722
		6076 (- 3%)	7036 (+ 10.4%)

Esh

The current Division is too small in electoral terms and that position is set to worsen. To address this situation the Council proposes to take advantage of the removal of former District Council boundaries to transfer Bearpark from the current Framwellgate Moor Division. The realignment of Bearpark with the current Esh Division brings together two communities that share the same geographic and socio-economic background and future challenges and as such reflects a stronger community of interest. Communication links between the communities are effective.

Although the realignment initially produces an electorate marginally outside the normal tolerance this is set to improve in the projection.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5293 (- 15.6%)	5120 (- 19.7%)
Transfer from Framwellgate Moor to Esh			
Bearpark Polling District	DR	1681	1773
		6974 (+ 11.3%)	6893 (+ 8.1%)

*Lanchester

The Division largely comprises the settlements of Burnhope, Castleside and Lanchester and these three villages have enjoyed a long and close association together. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6088 (- 2.9%)	6068 (- 4.8%)

***Leadgate and Medomsley**

The excessive imbalance of electorate in this Division is addressed by the transfer of electorate from the Shotley Park and East Law areas to the proposed Benfieldside Division (see Benfieldside Division for further details).

Although the proposal initially produces an electorate outside the normal tolerance, this is set to regularise in the projection. Any additional transfer of electorate to neighbouring Divisions to try and achieve even better electoral equality would not in the Council's view reflect community identity and would create artificial boundaries.

		2008	2013
Electorate		7784 (+ 24.2%)	7730 (+ 21.3%)
Transfer from Leadgate to Benfieldside Polling District	MG	602	606
Transfer from Leadgate to Benfieldside Part - Polling District (East Law)	MA	91	91
		7091 (+ 13.1%)	7033 (+ 10.3%)

***Stanley**

This Division comprises the clearly identifiable community of central Stanley and electoral equality is good. In the circumstances, the Council believes the Division does not need any boundary revision.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6700 (+ 6.9%)	6545 (+ 2.7%)

***Tanfield**

This Division comprises the clearly identifiable and linked communities of Tanfield Village, Tanfield Lea and Tantobie. Electoral equality is good and in the circumstances the Council proposes no change to this Division.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6749 (+ 7.7%)	6848 (+ 7.4%)

DURHAM CITY AREA

Many of the natural communities in the Durham City area are large in number and so establishing new Electoral Divisions which are also strong in terms of reflecting community identity has been a significant challenge. In the circumstances, and consistent with the general thrust of the Council's submission, electoral equality has been the primary objective.

Belmont

The current electorate in this Division is significantly low and the position is set to worsen in the projection. The Council's solution is to transfer electorate from the Sherburn Division. The transfer comprises the two neighbouring communities of Pitlington and Littleton, both with effective communication links to the rest of the Belmont Division. The resultant electoral equality is very strong.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5049 (- 19.4%)	5047 (- 20.8%)
Transfer from Sherburn to Belmont		
Pitlington & Littleton		
Polling Districts	DH	1080
	DHH	116
	6268 (0.0%)	6243 (- 2.1%)

Brandon

The current Brandon Division electorate is marginally excessive and that position is set to continue. The Council proposes a realignment of this Division which importantly assists changes in two neighbouring Divisions.

The transfer of Meadowfield to the Durham South Division corrects a significant imbalance in the electorate of the latter and these two areas share communication and other relevant links.

The transfer of Brancepeth Village from the Deerness Valley Division to the Brandon Division helps to restore the balance of electorate in the latter and produces a much better alignment of Division boundaries in this area. The resultant electoral equality would be acceptable.

	2008	2013
Electorate	7129 (+13.7%)	7147 (+ 12.1%)
Transfer from Deerness Valley to Brandon Brancepeth Village		
Polling District	GA	340
	342	
Transfer from Brandon to Durham South Meadowfield		
Polling District	HC	1570
	5862 (- 6.5%)	5917 (-7.2%)

Coxhoe

The present Coxhoe Division electorate is excessively low and this situation is set to continue. The Council's solution is to transfer Shadforth from the neighbouring Sherburn Division. There is a communication link between the two communities.

The resultant electorate (and projected electorate) is marginally outside the normal tolerance. However, with all of the other changes proposed in this area it is difficult to identify any further realignments which could assist the situation.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5242 (-16.4%)	5361 (- 15.9%)
Transfer from Sherburn to Coxhoe			
Shadforth			
Polling District	DJ	344	362
		5586 (- 10.9%)	5723 (-10.2%)

Deerness Valley

The marginally excessive electorate in this Division is addressed by the transfer of Brancepeth Village to the Brandon Division as referenced above. The resultant electoral equality would be acceptable.

		2008	2013
Electorate		7097 (+13.2%)	7326 (+ 14.9%)
Transfer from Deerness Valley to			
Brandon Brancepeth Village			
Polling District	GA	342	340
		6755 (+ 7.8%)	6986 (+ 9.6%)

Durham South

To address the excessively low electorate in this Division the Council proposes the transfer (as referenced earlier) of Meadowfield from the Brandon Division. In addition, and once again taking advantage of the removal of former District Council boundaries, the transfer of a relatively small group of electorate in the Thinford Lane/Metal Bridge Polling District in the current Ferryhill Division not only establishes good electoral equality in the Durham South Division but also assists proposals in the former Sedgfield area.

		2008	2013
Electorate		4910 (- 21.7%)	4844 (-24.0%)
Transfer from Brandon to			
Durham South Meadowfield			
Polling District	HC	1609	1570

Transfer from Ferryhill to Durham South Thinford Lane/Metal Bridge Polling District	CC	76 6595 (+ 5.2%)	92 6506 (+ 2.1%)
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*+ Elvet

The Council proposes to use a proportion of the Elvet electorate to bolster the neighbouring Gilesgate and Neville's Cross Divisions and the changes represent natural extensions of these latter two Divisions. These changes are not detrimental to the Elvet Division electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6979 (+ 11.3%)	6621 (+ 3.9%)
Transfer from Elvet to Gilesgate College of St Hild and St Bede and St Hild's Lane Polling District - Part	AG	434	434
Transfer from Elvet to Nevilles Cross St Aidan's College Polling District - Part	AN	388 6157 (- 1.8%)	388 5799 (- 9%)

Framwellgate Moor

The electorate in this Division is currently excessive and is projected to continue. However, the Council's earlier proposals transfer Witton Gilbert to the Sacriston Division and Bearpark to the Esh Division. To compensate for these transfers, the Council proposes the addition of West Rainton from the neighbouring Sherburn Division. Although Framwellgate Moor and West Rainton are distinct communities in their own right, there are communication links for the elected representatives and this proposal needs to be viewed as part of the overall re-configuration of many of the Durham City area Divisions. The resultant electoral equality for this Division would be acceptable.

		2008	2013
Electorate		7625 (+21.6%)	7862 (+ 23.3%)
Transfer from Framwellgate Moor to Sacriston Witton Gilbert Polling District	DW	2073	2153
Transfer from Framwellgate Moor to Esh Bearpark Polling District	DR	1681	1773

Transfer from Sherburn to Framwellgate Moor West Rainton Polling District	DI	1811	1791
		5682 (- 9.3%)	5727 (- 10.1%)

*+ Gilesgate

As referenced earlier, the Council's solution to the low electorate in the Gilesgate Division is to transfer part of the Polling District in the area of the College of St Bede and St Hild and St Hild's Lane from the Elvet Division. Resultant electoral equality would be acceptable.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5468 (- 12.8%)	5082 (- 20.2%)

Transfer from Elvet to Gilesgate the College of St Hild & St Bede and St Hild's Lane Polling District - Part	AG	434	434
		5902 (- 5.8%)	5516 (- 13.5%)

+Neville's Cross

Once again, as indicated earlier the Council proposes to re-align the Elvet Division boundary and transfer to the Neville's Cross Division part of a Polling District comprising St Aidan's College to address the low electorate in the latter. The resultant electoral equality on current figures would be good.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5617 (- 10.4%)	4947 (- 22.4%)

Transfer from Elvet to Nevilles Cross St Aidan's College Polling District - Part	AN	388	388
		6005 (- 4.2%)	5335 (- 16.3%)

*Newton Hall

This Division currently comprises an area with clear boundaries and a strong, identifiable community identity. Electoral equality is very strong and is projected to continue. The Council believes there is no need to make any boundary revisions to this Division.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6207 (- 1.0%)	6193 (-2.8%)

Sherburn

Importantly, the Council's proposals for the Durham City area have utilised electorate in the current Sherburn Division to modify and improve three other neighbouring Divisions.

The Council further proposes to transfer Ludworth to the Thornley Division in the Easington area (for further details see Easington Area proposals). The remaining electorate, comprising Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill, is very closely aligned in terms of community identity and is an ideal size for a new single Member Division.

Electorate		2008	2013
		7031 (+12.2%)	7072 (+ 10.9%)
Transfer from Sherburn to Framwellgate Moor			
West Rainton			
Polling District	DI	1811	1791
Transfer from Sherburn to Belmont			
Pittington & Littleton			
Polling Districts	DH	1104	1080
	DHH	115	116
Transfer from Sherburn to Thornley			
Ludworth			
Polling District	DJJ	500	521
Transfer from Sherburn to Coxhoe			
Shadforth			
Polling District	DJ	344	362
		3157 (+ 0.7%)	3202 (- 0.5%)

New Single Member Division

(NB The proposals in the Durham City area represent a reduction of one Member).

+ Student Adjustments - the majority of Durham University students who currently live in Colleges are as a matter of course annually block entered by their respective College on the local electoral register. The remainder (and a significant proportion), living in private households, are either ineligible to vote (foreign nationals), use the postal vote option for either their home or college residence, register locally or do not bother to register.

On the basis of recent discussions with and information provided by the University, it would seem that a considerable number of this latter group of students are presently uncounted as potential voters on the electoral register in Durham.

In addition, the more recent practice of *data cleansing* the register has meant that every student household has to be identified regularly rather than staying on the register for a number of years, irrespective of whether or not an electoral return has been received.

The Council was asked to provide the Boundary Committee with electoral projections to 2013 on the basis of recent trends and incorporating where possible information on committed developments and clearances.

There is clearly a problem within these three *City* Electoral Divisions in that the trend projection for a decline in the electorate is not reflected by an actual fall in the population but it is unclear at present how this situation will develop in future years.

This problem is likely to affect all towns and cities that contain a large university population and the Council would ask the Committee to also consider student under enumeration as a relevant factor in electoral reviews.

In the circumstances, perhaps the best way forward at present is to evaluate these three Divisions on the 2008 electorate alone and wait and see how registration develops. The Council's proposed changes for these three Divisions produce 2008 electorates all well within the normal tolerance.

EASINGTON AREA

*Blackhalls

The current Division has good electoral equality. However, electorate in the neighbouring Division of Wingate is excessive and this is projected to continue. In response to the situation in Wingate (and as part of a more extensive re-configuration referenced later), the Council proposes a transfer of electorate to Blackhalls from the Castle Eden area. The community of Castle Eden is self contained and easily identifiable with relevant communication links. The Blackhalls Division, however, will continue to have good electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6034 (- 3.7%)	6047 (- 5.1%)
Transfer from Wingate			
Castle Eden			
Polling District	AE	487	621
		6521 (+ 4.0%)	6668 (+ 4.6%)

*Dawdon

This Division, along with the Deneside and Seaham Divisions constitute the Seaham Town area as a whole. The current Division is too small in electorate terms and that situation is projected to continue. In response, the Council proposes a transfer of electorate from the Seaham Harbour Parish North Ward (currently part of the neighbouring Seaham Division). The Seaham Division is projected to expand considerably to a position which will exceed an acceptable tolerance for electoral equality. The electoral equality which results from the proposal for the Dawdon Division will be good.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5215 (- 16.8%)	5324 (- 16.5%)
Transfer from Seaham to Dawdon (Seaham Harbour Parish North Ward)			
Polling District	BE	894	895
		6109 (- 2.5%)	6219(- 2.4%)

*Deneside

The current Division is also currently too small in electorate terms and that situation is projected to worsen. The Council proposes a transfer of the Seaton Park, Melrose Crescent and Mildale areas (currently part of the Seaham Division). The electoral equality which results from the proposal is acceptable.

There is a desire across all parties within the Council to retain as discreet the area of Seaham Town as a whole.

In the circumstances, any further modifications to these three Divisions are not proposed. (See also Seaham Division).

	2008	2013
Electorate	5401 (- 13.8%)	5335 (- 16.3%)
Transfer from Seaham to Deneside		
Seaton Park	20	20
Melrose Crescent	238	238
Mildale	37	37
Polling District - Part BA		
	5696 (- 9.1%)	5630 (- 11.7%)

***Easington**

The current Division has clear geographical boundaries and community identity. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6082 (-3%)	6327 (-0.7%)

***Horden**

The current Division has clear geographical boundaries and community identity. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6466 (+3.2%)	6475 (+1.6%)

***Murton**

The current Division has clear geographical boundaries and community identity. Electoral equality is acceptable and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5775 (-7.9%)	5919 (-7.1%)

Peterlee East/Peterlee West/Passfield

A significant proportion of the current Wingate Division electorate is taken from the Passfield area of Peterlee Town. The Council's proposals aim to draw together the electorate of the Town as a whole in the Peterlee East, Peterlee West and newly proposed Passfield Divisions. The Council would like the Boundary Committee to consider two options to achieve this objective. The first option better reflects community identity, the second is stronger on electoral equality.

Option 1

Peterlee East

The current Division has clear geographical boundaries and reflects community identity. Electoral equality is acceptable and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5724 (-8.7%)	5849 (-8.2%)

Peterlee West

Whilst this Division currently has clear boundaries and reflects community identity, its electoral equality borders on the normal tolerance. The proposal for this Division involves a transfer of electorate from part of Passfield (currently within the neighbouring Division of Wingate). The resultant electoral equality for the Division would be good.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5657 (- 9.7%)	5731 (- 10.1%)

Transfer from Wingate to
Peterlee West
Part Passfield
Polling District

Y3	700	693
	6357 (+ 1.4%)	6424 (+ 0.8%)

Passfield

The proposal for a new single Member Division of Passfield from the transfer of electorate in the current Wingate Division facilitates the move to a more recognisable Peterlee Town area. The Council recognises that this would result in an elector/Member ratio which is above the normal variance. However, this proposal more clearly reflects the community identity of the area.

		2008	2013
Transfer from Wingate			
Polling Districts	Y	2621	2454
	Y1	740	847
	Y2	456	371
		3817 (+ 21.8%)	3672 (+ 15.2%)

New Single Member Division

Option 2

Peterlee East

The current Division has clear geographical boundaries and reflects community identity. Electoral equality is acceptable and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5724 (-8.7%)	5849 (-8.2%)

Peterlee West

In order to improve the elector/Member ratio in the new Passfield Division, a further small transfer of electorate into the Peterlee West Division is proposed in this option. Peterlee West is seen as the natural Division to accept this further transfer. Electoral equality would remain strong.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5657 (- 9.7%)	5731 (- 10.1%)

Transfer from Wingate to
Peterlee West

Tweed Close) **Part** Polling
Forth Close) District
Moray Close)
Avon Road)

Y1 169 169

Transfer from Wingate to
Peterlee West

Part Passfield
Polling District

Y3 700 693
6526 (+ 4.1%) 6593 (+ 3.4%)

Passfield

By transferring some further electorate into the Peterlee West Division, the new Passfield Division is improved from the point of view of electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Transfer from Wingate			
Polling Districts	Y	2621	2454
Part	Y1	678	678
	Y2	456	371
		3755 (+ 19.8%)	3503 (+ 9.9%)

New Single Member Division

*Seaham

This Division, along with Dawdon and Deneside, constitute the Seaham Town area as a whole. Whilst the current Division is acceptable in terms of electoral equality, it is projected to expand considerably because of new developments, the result of which would be to take the electoral equality beyond the normal tolerance. As both of the neighbouring Divisions have smaller electorates, the Council proposes to transfer electorate from the Seaham Harbour Parish North Ward to the Dawdon Division and Seaton Park, Melrose Crescent and Mildale area to the Deneside Division. The electoral equality for the residual area will improve to good in the projection. Any further changes for the Seaham Town area are seen as problematic.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6675 (+ 6.5%)	7445 (+ 16.8%)
Transfer to Dawdon Polling District	BE	894	895
Transfer to Deneside Seaton Park		20	20
Melrose Crescent		238	238
Mildale		37	37
		5486 (- 12.5%)	6255 (- 1.9%)

*Shotton

This Division currently represents the communities of Shotton and Haswell. The size of the electorate for the Division is on the limit of acceptance but the position is expected to worsen.

The nearby Thornley Division is presently low in terms of electoral equality and the Council proposes to transfer the discreet area of nearby Haswell Plough to Thornley to improve this situation. The proposal results in a Shotton Division with acceptable electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6920 (+10.4%)	7369 (+ 15.6%)
Transfer Haswell Plough from Shotton to Thornley Polling District	L	341	352
		6579 (+ 5.0%)	7017 (+ 10.1%)

*Thornley

The current Division comprises the communities of Thornley and Wheatley Hill. The Division is low in terms of electoral equality and is projected to slightly worsen. To address this imbalance the Council proposes to transfer Ludworth (currently in the Sherburn Division) which has close association with the Thornley and Wheatley Hill communities. In addition, to further improve electoral equality both for this Division and the neighbouring Division of Shotton, the Council also proposes the transfer of the discreet area of Haswell Plough to Thornley. The resultant Thornley Division would have good electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5301 (- 15.4%)	5299 (- 16.9%)
Transfer from Shotton Haswell Plough Polling District	L	341	352
Transfer from Sherburn Ludworth Polling District	DJJ	500	521
		6142 (- 2%)	6172 (- 3.2%)

*Wingate

The current and projected electorate in this Division is excessive. In order to bring together the Peterlee Town area as a whole the Council has earlier proposed the transfer of the Passfield area partly into the Peterlee West Division with the balance used to create a new single Member Passfield Division.

This transfer, together with that of Castle Eden to the Blackhalls Division, results in a new single Member Division for Wingate which is strong in terms of both electoral equality and community identity.

		2008	2013
Electorate		8025 (+ 28%)	8165 (+ 28.1%)
Transfer to Peterlee West from Wingate Part Passfield Polling District	Y3	700	693
Transfer to New Passfield Division from Wingate Polling Districts	Y	2621	2454
	Y1	740	847
	Y2	456	371

(See also Option 2 for Peterlee West/Passfield Divisions)

Transfer from Wingate to

Blackhalls Castle Eden

Polling District

AE

487

3021 (-3.6%)

621

3179 (- 0.25%)

New Single Member Division

SEDGEFIELD AREA

Aycliffe

Like elsewhere in the County, the Council has expressed a clear desire to encompass all of the Aycliffe Town in one discreet grouping of electoral Divisions.

The new Aycliffe Electoral Divisions which are proposed have clear, identifiable boundaries and all have acceptable electoral equality.

*Aycliffe 1 (3 Member Division)

		2008	2013
Transfer from Shildon East			
Polling Districts	DJ	274	270
	DL	1276	1248
	DK	1124	1161
	DN	1099	1133
	EX2A	372	387
	CQ3	4421	4672
		8566 (- 8.9%)	8871 (- 7.2%)

(Re-name Aycliffe North, the Dales and Middridge Division)

*Aycliffe 2 (2 Member Division)

		2008	2013
Polling Districts	DM	597	620
	EX1	626	759
	EX2	430	431
	EX3	1861	1769
	EU	1423	1436
Part	EW	862	862
		5799 (- 7.5%)	5877 (- 7.8%)

(Re-name Aycliffe Central Division)

*Aycliffe 3 (2 Member Division)

		2008	2013
Polling Districts	EV	2630	2676
	ES	774	783
	ET	1543	1405
	EY	604	563
Part	EW	764	764
		6315 (+ 0.7%)	6191 (- 2.9%)

(Re-name Aycliffe East Division)

These proposals effectively result in one additional Member in this area.

Chilton/Ferryhill

The Chilton Division is currently on the limit of acceptance in terms of electoral equality and that position worsens in the projection. The Ferryhill Division electorate is excessive and is set to continue at about the same level.

Transfers are proposed from both the Chilton and Ferryhill Divisions to assist with the re-design of the neighbouring Divisions of Coundon and Durham South as referenced elsewhere in the submission.

Further exchanges of electorate are then proposed from Ferryhill to Chilton to achieve either good or acceptable electoral equality in both Divisions. These are not seen as significantly detrimental in any way in terms of both community identity or effective and convenient local government.

Chilton

		2008	2013
Electorate		6919 (+ 10.4%)	7137 (+ 12%)
Transfer from Chilton to Coundon			
Polling District	FH	903	919
Transfer from Ferryhill to Chilton			
Polling District - Part	CD	276	276
Transfer from Ferryhill to Chilton			
Polling District - Part	CE	126 6418 (+ 2.4%)	126 6620 (+ 3.9%)

Ferryhill

		2008	2013
Electorate		7292 (+ 16.3%)	7451 (+ 16.9%)
Transfer from Ferryhill to Durham South			
Polling District - Part	CC	76	92
Transfer from Ferryhill to Chilton			
Polling District - Part	CD	276	276
Transfer from Ferryhill to Chilton			
Polling District - Part	CE	126 6814 (+ 8.7%)	126 6957 (+ 9.1%)

*Sedgefield

The Division has clear geographical boundaries and strong community identity. Electoral equality at present is marginally beyond the normal tolerance although the position is set to improve significantly in the projection. The Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revisions.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5531 (- 11.8%)	6017 (- 5.6%)

Shildon Area

The Council has also expressed a clear desire to encompass all of the Shildon area and associated communities together and this is directly related to the Aycliffe Town proposals where current electoral arrangements mix the communities of the two Towns.

The two new Divisions have clear, identifiable boundaries and strong community identity. The proposal results in a reduction of one member for this particular area. Although electoral equality is marginally beyond the normal tolerance the Council would maintain that the strong community identity which results is more than sufficient justification and any further adjustments would be problematic.

Shildon East

	2008	2013
Electorate	6713 (+ 7.1%)	6596 (+ 3.5%)

Transfer from Shildon East to
Aycliffe

Polling Districts	DJ	274	270
	DL	1276	1248
	DK	1124	1161
	DN	1099	1133
	EX2A	372	387

Add Polling Districts from
current Shildon West

	DF	754	1037
	DH	1499	1564
	DG	190	189
	DC	1492	1467
	DA	486	456
		6989 (+ 11.5%)	7110 (+ 11.5%)

(Re-name Shildon Division)

Shildon West

		2008	2013
Electorate		5706 (- 9.0%)	5898 (-7.5%)
New Configuration			
Polling Districts	CO	748	829
	CP	282	314
	CQ	218	240
	CL	444	429
	CK2	233	237
	CK3	336	288
	DI	305	281
	DB	980	904
		3546 (+ 13.1%)	3522 (+ 10.5%)

New Single Member Division

(Re-Name Dene Valley Division)

Spennymoor and Middlestone

This Division's electorate is excessive and the position is set to marginally worsen. In response, the Council proposes a transfer of electorate to assist electoral equality in the neighbouring Coundon Division and then in turn a transfer in of electorate from the Tudhoe Division to address an imbalance in the latter. This proposal achieves good electoral equality in three Divisions and is not seen as detrimental in terms of community identity or effective and convenient local government.

		2008	2013
Electorate		7482 (+ 19.4%)	7715 (+ 21%)
Transfer to Coundon			
Polling District - (Part)	FG	1146	1146
Transfer to Coundon			
Polling District	FI	669	687
Transfer from Tudhoe			
Polling District	FE2	865	842
		6532 (+ 4.2%)	6724 (+ 5.5%)

***Trimdon**

The current Division has clear, identifiable boundaries and strong community identity. Electoral equality is acceptable and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary reviews.

	2008	2013
Electorate	5783 (- 7.7%)	5861 (- 8.0%)

Tudhoe

As referenced above, the Council proposes a realignment of electorate from this Division to neighbouring Spennymoor and Middlestone to address electorate imbalance. This package of measures also assists the nearby Division of Coundon.

		2008	2013
Electorate		7136 (+ 13.8%)	7134 (+ 11.9%)
Transfer from Tudhoe to Spennymoor Polling District	FE2	865 6271 (0.0%)	842 6292 (- 1.3%)

TEESDALE AREA

- *Barnard Castle East)
- *Barnard Castle West)

Community identity within the Town of Barnard Castle and its associated surrounding villages and settlements is very strong.

However, a number of relatively minor exchanges of electorate are proposed between the two Divisions to achieve more identifiable boundaries that clearly delineate the East/West split of the Town and to provide for a more even distribution of electorate. Both Divisions would remain within the electoral equality tolerance.

Barnard Castle East

	2008	2013
Electorate	6863 (+ 9.5%)	7126 (+ 11.8%)

Transfer from Barnard Castle
West to Barnard Castle East
Polling Districts

Barforth	BO3	69	79
Ovington	BO2	123	127
Wycliffe	BO5	78	85
Hutton	BO4	96	97
Rokeby	GR2	73	73
Barningham	BO1	148	149
Brignall	GR1	49	50
Scargill	BO7	23	20
Eggleston Abbey	GR4	14	17
Hope	BO6	15	18

Transfer from Barnard Castle
East to Barnard Castle West
Polling Districts

Eggleston	EG1	380	404
Marwood Rural	EG2	160	170

Properties between Middleton
Road and Staindrop Road
- Part

	BCN1	297	297
		6714 (+ 7.1%)	6970 (+ 9.4 %)

Barnard Castle West

	2008	2013
Electorate	6450 (+ 2.9%)	6717 (+ 5.4%)

Transfer from Barnard Castle
West to Barnard Castle East
Polling Districts

Barforth	BO3	69	79
Ovington	BO2	123	127
Wycliffe	BO5	78	85
Hutton	BO4	96	97
Rokeby	GR2	73	73
Barningham	BO1	148	149
Brignall	GR1	49	50
Scargill	BO7	23	20
Hope	BO6	15	18
Eglestone Abbey	GR4	14	17
Transfer from Barnard Castle East to Barnard Castle West Polling Districts			
Egleston	EG1	380	404
Marwood Rural	EG2	160	170
Properties between Middleton Road and Staindrop Road Polling District - Part			
	BCN1	297	297
		6599 (+ 5.3%)	6873 (+ 7.8%)

Evenwood

A number of minor changes are proposed in this Division, either to address the linkage of areas with a shared community identity or to produce a more identifiable boundary in a particular area. The net affect of the proposals on electoral equality is minimal, which remains within the accepted tolerance.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6766 (+ 7.9%)	6885 (+ 8%)
Transfer from Evenwood to West Auckland Properties -			
Oakley Cross		14	
Coniston Avenue		13+16	
Derwent Avenue		14	
Grasmere Avenue		8	
Thirlmere Grove		1,24 + 25	
Ullswater Avenue		38, 40, 42-49, 51, 53, 55, 57 59, 61, 63, 65	
Electors		72	72
Transfer from Evenwood to West Auckland a number of Farm Properties			
Polling District	Part ET3	10 approximately 6684 (+ 6.6%)	10 approximately 6803 (+ 6.7%)

WEAR VALLEY AREA

*Bishop Auckland Town

This Division has clear geographical boundaries and strong community identity. Electoral equality is good and the Council believes therefore that the Division does not need any boundary revision.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6431 (+2.6%)	6901 (+8.3%)

Coundon

The current Division is relatively weak in terms of electoral equality and this situation is projected to continue. The Council proposes a transfer of electorate from the Division to help establish the new Dene Valley Division referenced earlier and then to compensate a transfer of electorate from the Spennymoor and Middlestone and Chilton Divisions. These proposals are not seen as detrimental in terms of community identity and convenient and effective local government and the new Coundon Division would have good electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5471 (- 12.7%)	5554 (- 12.9%)
Transfer to Dene Valley	CO	748	829
	CK3	336	288
	CK2	233	237
	CP	282	314
	CL	444	429
	CQ	218	240
Transfer from Spennymoor) F1	669	687
from Chilton) Part FG	1146	1146
) FH	903	919
		5928 (- 5.4%)	5969 (- 6.4%)

*Crook North

The current Division has acceptable electoral equality and this is projected to improve. However the neighbouring Division of Willington has excess electorate which is projected to increase further. The Council proposal is to transfer the North Bitchburn and High Grange areas from Willington to assist electoral equality between the two Divisions. The proposed transfer is seen as sensible in terms of community identity.

In addition the Council proposes to transfer a small amount of electorate in the Thornley area to the Weardale Division to restore a previous, stronger boundary which better reflects community identity.

		2008	2013
Electorate		5825 (- 7.1%)	6315 (- 0.9%)
Transfer from Willington Polling Districts	BT	327	386
	BU1	139	151
Transfer to Weardale Polling Districts	DL	43	42
	DP	96	110
		6152 (- 1.8%)	6700 (+ 5.1%)

***Crook South**

This Division has clear geographical boundaries and strong community identity. The electoral equality in the Division is currently good and whilst it is projected to increase slightly above the normal tolerance, the Council believes that the Division should remain the same.

	2008	2013
Electorate	6522 (+4%)	7045 (+10.5%)

***Weardale**

The current Division has acceptable electoral equality and strong community identity. However, the Council proposes the transfer of a relatively small number of electorate in the Thornley area (currently part of the Crook North Division). This would restore a previous, stronger boundary which better reflects community identity without being detrimental to electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6595 (+ 5.2%)	6825 (+7.1%)
Transfer from Crook North Polling Districts	DL	43	42
	DP	96	110
		6734 (+ 7.4%)	6977 (+ 9.5%)

West Auckland

This Division currently has good electoral equality. A number of small exchanges of electorate with the neighbouring Divisions of Evenwood and Woodhouse Close are proposed either to address linkages of areas with a shared community identity or to produce a more identifiable boundary. The net affect of the proposals on electoral equality is minimal.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6333 (+ 1%)	6770 (+ 6.2%)
Transfer area from Evenwood to West Auckland		72	72
Transfer from Woodhouse Close to West Auckland			
Polling District			
Tindale Crescent Area			
Polling District	CBB	278	278
Polling District (Part)	GG	6	6
Transfer from West Auckland to Woodhouse Close			
Rush Park Estate and Middlehope Grove			
Polling District (Part)	CDD	269	269
Transfer from Evenwood a number of farm properties from			
Polling District (Part)	ET3	10 approximately 6430 (+ 2.6%)	10 approximately 6867 (+ 7.7%)

*Willington

As referred earlier, to address excess electorate in this Division the Council proposes a transfer of electorate to the neighbouring Crook North Division. The transfer is seen as sensible in terms of community identity and is not detrimental to electoral equality.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6960 (+ 11%)	7555 (+ 18.5%)
Transfer to Crook North			
Polling Districts			
	BT	327	386
	BU1	139	151
		6494 (+ 3.6%)	7018 (+10.1%)

Woodhouse Close

Whilst electoral equality is currently good in this Division, as referenced earlier, the Council proposes a modest exchange of electorate with the West Auckland Division to better link areas of shared interest or improve existing boundaries.

		2008	2013
Electorate		6195 (- 1.2%)	6077 (- 4.7%)
Transfer from Woodhouse Close to West Auckland Polling District			
Tindale Crescent Area	CBB	278	278
Polling District (Part)	CG	6	6
Transfer from West Auckland to Woodhouse Close Rush Park Estate and Middlehope Grove Polling District - (Part)	CDD	269	269
		6180 (- 1.4%)	6062 (- 4.9%)