

Ravenside Bungalow – Principal Area Boundary Review: Draft Recommendations, January 2012

Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body that conducts principal area boundary reviews (PABRs). These are reviews which consider the boundaries between principal authority areas.

2 The LGBCE is conducting a PABR to consider where the boundary between Northumberland County Council and Gateshead Council should be in the area around Ravenside Bungalow. After we have completed our review, we will send our final recommendations to the Secretary of State who will decide whether or not to implement them.

3 The existing administrative boundary locates a property (Ravenside Bungalow) in Gateshead Metropolitan Borough. However, the property is registered with Northumberland County Council, to which it also pays council tax, and is separated from its only neighbours on Ravenside Farm by the existing administrative boundary. Furthermore, Ravenside Bungalow is only accessible from the Northumberland side of the boundary, which means that that it is not possible for residents to access Gateshead without first going through Northumberland County Council area.

4 We consider this anomaly can be sensibly addressed through a boundary change which would include all the residents of Ravenside Bungalow in Northumberland County Council area. Realigning this boundary in this way would result in the property Ravenside Bungalow being transferred from the Metropolitan Borough of Gateshead into the County of Northumberland.

5 We also propose tidying up the boundary where it runs through the gardens of Ravenside Farm and North House, which neighbour Ravenside Bungalow. Residents of these properties are represented by Northumberland County Council. Our draft recommendation for these properties simply tidies the boundary up so that the properties and the entirety of their respective gardens and grounds are in the same local authority area.

6 Our draft recommendations are described and mapped on pages 4–6 of this report.

7 We aim to conduct the review within the time-frame outlined below:

Key dates	Description
24 January 2012	LGBCE publishes its draft recommendations
24 January to 21 February 2012	Four week consultation period on the draft recommendations
March 2011	Final recommendations published and sent to the Secretary of State

Background and legislation

8 The aim of a principal area boundary review (PABR) is to consider the existing boundaries in a particular local authority area and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to change (or in some cases, make recommendations *not* to change) the external boundaries between two or more principal authorities.

9 When considering what boundaries to recommend, the legislation states that we must have regard to:

- the need to secure effective and convenient local government;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities

The boundaries we recommend should also be identifiable, clear and long-lasting.

Electoral Arrangements

10 If we recommend any boundary change, we must also recommend to the Secretary of State whether, as a consequence, a change should be made to:

- the electoral arrangements of the area of a local authority; and
- the electoral arrangements of the area of a parish council.

11 Electoral arrangements means:

- the total number of members to be elected to the council;
- the number and boundaries of electoral areas (wards or divisions) for the purposes of the election of councillors;
- the number of councillors for any electoral area of a local authority; and
- the name of any electoral area.

The Secretary of State

12 If we do recommend a boundary change, the Secretary of State may:

:

- accept and implement the change we recommend;
- modify our recommendations and make an order to implement those modified changes;
- take no action; or
- request us to carry out another review.

Parish boundaries

13 We cannot make recommendations to the Secretary of State about whether or not to change a parish boundary. However, when we make our recommendations about the principal authority boundary, we may comment on and make suggestions to the Secretary of State on any consequential parish boundary changes he might wish to consider in implementing our recommendations.

Our draft recommendations

14 We have considered the existing boundary around Ravenside Bungalow. We consider that locating Ravenside Bungalow in Northumberland County Council area will better reflect the community in the area and will ensure that residents at Ravenside Bungalow will have direct access to the local authority area in which they live.

15 Our draft recommendation to change the administrative boundary in this area affects 2 electors from one household. We consider that the transfer of these electors between local authorities does not require any substantial changes to the electoral arrangements in the area. We are therefore recommending only directly consequential electoral arrangements to ensure that the borough ward and county division boundaries in the area are coterminous with the new administrative boundary

Draft Recommendations:

To re-align the administrative boundary between Northumberland County and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough, as outlined in Table 1 below and Map 1 on page 4 of this report. Our draft recommendation is for the area in the red shaded part of the map, (Area A) to be transferred to Northumberland County. As a consequence of tidying the boundary to more practical ground features, we also propose to transfer a very small area (Area B, shaded blue on the map) into Gateshead Metropolitan Borough. This area has no electors.

We are also recommending that the ward and division boundaries are re-aligned so that they are coterminous with the revised administrative boundary.

This will have the effect, if implemented, of the property Ravenside Bungalow being included in Northumberland County and in South Tynedale electoral division.

Table 1:

Area	Local authority from which omitted	Ward from which omitted	Division from which omitted	Local authority to which added	Ward to which added	Division to which added
A	Gateshead Council	Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	None	Northumberland County Council	None	South Tynedale
B	Northumberland County Council	None	South Tynedale	Gateshead Council	Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	None

Other matters

16 We recognise that the existing administrative boundary that we are considering, is also a parish boundary of Hedley county parish. The parish is not warded.

17 We have no power to recommend to the Secretary of State that he changes the parish boundary. However, we consider that that it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government in the parish boundary of Hedley parish being re-aligned to any altered administrative boundary. We therefore intend to make such a suggestion to the Secretary of State subject to the outcome of consultations on these draft recommendations.

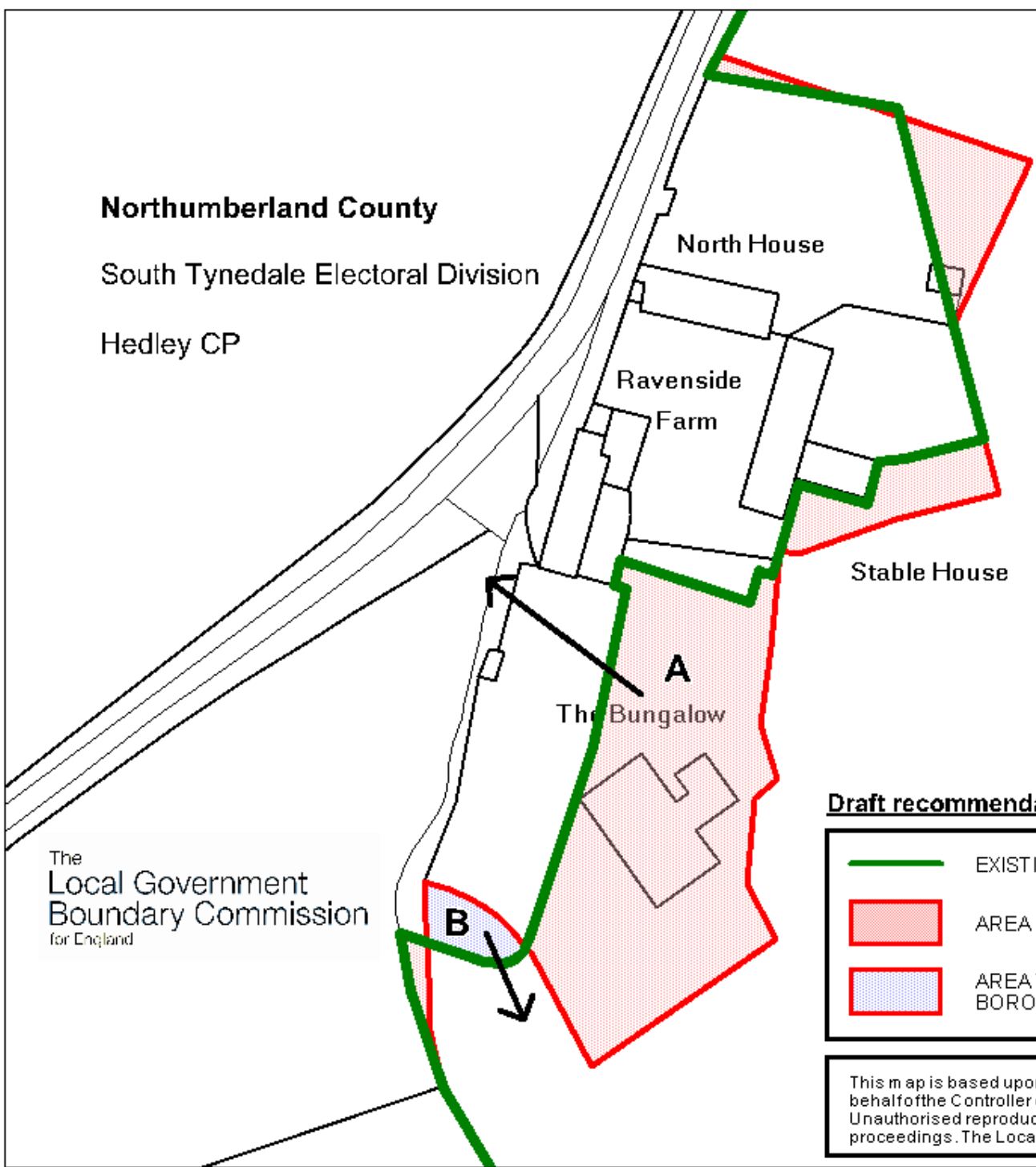
Northumberland County

South Tynedale Electoral Division




Hedley CP

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough

Chopwell & Rowlands Gill ward



Draft recommendations - Ravenside Bungalow

-  EXISTING METROPOLITAN BOROUGH/COUNTY BOUNDARY
-  AREA TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
-  AREA TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

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The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

What happens next?

18 We are consulting on our draft recommendations between 10 January 2012 and 7 February 2012. We may change our final recommendations as a result of the comments we receive. It is therefore important that you let us have your comments and views on the draft recommendations. We encourage comments regardless of whether you agree with the draft recommendations or not. We will be accepting comments and views until 7 February 2012.

19 We will then consider your comments and formulate our final recommendations which we aim to publish and submit to the Secretary of State in March 2012. There will then be a further period of four weeks for interested parties to make representations on our recommendations direct to the Secretary of State.

20 Express your views on our draft recommendations by writing directly to:

**Review Officer
Northumberland and Gateshead Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG**

21 Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, www.lgbce.org.uk or by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

22 More details on boundary reviews, including references to the legislation that we have to adhere to, can be found in our 'Principal Area Boundary Reviews: technical guidance', published in May 2011, available on our website, www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications

23 Please note that the consultation stages of this review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations on our draft recommendations will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Northumberland County Council and Gateshead Council, our offices in Layden House (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

24 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.