

Submission to the 2023 Local Government Boundary Review for South Tyneside – July 2023



**On behalf of the South Shields
Constituency Labour Party**

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Introduction

The Executive Committee, on behalf of the South Shields Constituency Labour Party submit the following proposals for consideration to the Local Government Boundary Review for the South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council.

In considering our proposals we have noted:

- That eighteen wards – three Councillors per ward – is to be maintained for future electoral purposes
- That the Review is required to seek an equal number – as far as geographical possible - of electors for each electoral ward
- That the electorate for South Tyneside for 2029 is forecast to be 108,681 and ward size should therefore be approx., 6,037 but allows for a reasonable variance between wards to account for geographical considerations and retaining strong community links

At the time of preparing our proposals we have been advised that the **Parliamentary Boundary Commission** has included the Cleadon & East Boldon ward within the South Shields Constituency.

Four wards in the Borough – *Boldon Colliery, Cleadon & East Boldon, Whitburn & Marsden* and *Hedworth & Fellgate* are identified as being part of the 'urban fringe', our proposals to the Boundary review respect that identification without the need to create any further large artificial urban fringe wards.

We make no recommendations with regards Jarrow Constituency wards save those bordering on South Shields namely the Bede and Cleadon & East Boldon wards.

Proposals

South Shields does not have a transient population, we have strong identified local neighbourhoods reinforced by positive community engagement via the Councils **Community Area Forums** which underpin those strong community links.

We believe only slight modification needs to be made to South Shields wards in order to ensure that wards are created of equal population numbers, but also note that the Local Boundary Review accept slight variances in numbers to accommodate strong community links.

Your 2029 Forecast of population numbers for South Tyneside is 108,681 which would equate to each ward having 6,037 electors, our proposals work on the basis that some wards will have a slight + variance as permitted in your calculations, none would have a – variance.

We propose the following for your consideration and review:

1. Beacon and Bents

Ward is forecast to have 7,348 electors. We propose:

- Loses the Erskine Road area southwards which would be the future demarcation line between Westoe and Beacon & Bents with the locally identified “musical streets” (i.e., Mozart and Beethoven Streets) being transferred to the Westoe ward
- Loses the St Marks way area to Westoe Ward
- Gains part of the Holborn area from Simonside and Rekendyke with a clear ward boundary being Laygate Lane

If the above still results in Beacon and Bents having too big a variance, there is the option for the boundary between Westoe and Beacon and Bents to be Derby Terrace, i.e. Halstead Place and Raynham Court areas resulting in Beacon and Bents losing areas such south of Derby Terrace but creating an equally identifiable boundary between the Westoe ward at this location.

2. Biddick and All Saints

Ward is forecast to have – 6,600 electors. To reduce variance slightly we propose:

- Boundary between West Park and Biddick & All Saints should be Olive Street with houses east of Olive Street transferred to the West Park ward

3. Cleadon Park

Ward is forecast to have 5,961 electors. We propose that Cleadon Park should remain a compact ward, centred around the Nook shopping area and accordingly we propose this ward should:

- Gains from Whitburn and Marsden the Beacon Glade and Beaconside estate which is a natural progression eastwards for Cleadon Park with residents in this area identifying more with Cleadon Park than Whitburn

4. Harton

Ward is forecast to have 6,683 electors. In order to reduce variance slightly we propose that Harton:

- Loses to the Westoe ward St Peters Avenue area with the boundary between Harton and Westoe being Moor Lane to create a stronger identified boundary between these two wards

5. Horsley Hill

Ward is forecast to have 7,014 electors. We propose that Horsley Hill:

- Loses odd side of Highfield Drive and even side of High Meadow to Westoe
- Loses odd side of Harton Rise and Grinstead Close to Westoe
- Loses a small section of Seawinnings Way, Baltic Court and Hutton Row on the Westoe Crown estate to Westoe
- Loses Ecclestone Road and a small section of Mowbray Road to provide a neat boundary with the Westoe ward

6. Simonside and Rekendyke

Ward is forecast to have 6,709 electors. In order to accommodate the need for West Park Ward to have an increased electorate, and the fact that large electorates in Hebburn North and Hebburn South wards (both in Jarrow) will require boundary movement eastwards, we propose Simonside and Rekendyke:

- Gains the Peel Gardens (polling station LB) area, creating a clear demarcation line between Bede and Simonside with the John Reid Road. This area was originally within the Simonside ward and residents have always made representations to return to the Simonside ward
- Loses the housing estate south of Dean Road namely the Wharfedale Drive area to West Park
- Loses a part of the Holborn area to Beacon and Bents with a clear boundary between these two wards being Laygate Lane
- Slight change to boundary at eastern end of ward at Laygate Lane to make a much clear ward boundary between the Beacon & Bents, Westoe and Simonside & Rekendyke wards

Should Simonside and Rekendyke variance still remain too large, there is the option to include the Waverdale Way estate at Tyne Dock into the West Park ward

7. West Park

Ward is forecast to have 5,588 electors. We propose:

- Gains Hepscott Terrace and Canterbury Street area from Westoe – to create a stronger marked boundary i.e., Dean Road, between Westoe and West Park
- Gains the housing estate south of Dean Road, Wharfedale Drive area from Simonside and Rekendyke
- Gains housing east of Olive Street from the Biddick and All Saints ward

Should the variance for West Park still remain too low, there is the option to transfer the Waverdale Way estate from the Simonside and Rekendyke ward into West Park.

8. Westoe

Ward is forecast to have 6,509 electors but to accommodate the need for West Park to have an increased electorate, Beacon and Bents to reduce its electorate and Horsley Hill to have a reduction in their electorate we propose that Westoe:

- Gains the electors identified as the “musical streets” (i.e., Mozart, Beethoven Streets) from Beacon and Bents
- Gains odd side of Highfield Drive, the even side of High Meadow, the odd side of Harton Rise and also Grinstead Close from Horsley Hill
- Gains St Peters Avenue from Harton with the demarcation line between Harton and Westoe being Moor Lane
- Gains a small section of Seawinnings Way, Baltic Court and Hutton Row on the Westoe Crown estate, Ecclestone Road and a small section of Mowbray Road from Horsley Hill to make a neat boundary at this location
- Gains St Marks Way from Beacon and Bents
- Loses electors in the Hepscott Terrace/Canterbury Street area to West Park creating a more defined boundary, i.e., Dean Road between West Park and Westoe at this location

As advised above (Beacon and Bents ward proposals), there is the option for the boundary between Westoe and Beacon and Bents to be Derby Terrace, resulting in Beacon and Bents losing areas such south of Derby Terrace i.e., Halstead Place, Raynham Court areas creating an equally identifiable boundary should variances between Beacon & Bents and Westoe require it.

9. Whitburn and Marsden

Ward is forecast to have 6,071 electors, to accommodate need for Cleadon Park to have additional electors and Cleadon & East Boldon ward to have a reduction, we propose:

- Loses the Beaconside and Beacon Glade estates to Cleadon Park
- That the demarcation line between Cleadon & East Boldon and the Whitburn & Marsden wards should be Sunderland Road with Oakleigh and Elmsleigh Gardens area's being transferred to the Whitburn & Marsden ward

Whitburn, similar to Cleadon & East Boldon, serves the urban fringe of South Tyneside, both areas identify as "villages" and accordingly have always been large geographical wards. Encompassing the area east of Sunderland Road from Cleadon & East Boldon to Whitburn ensures we minimise the need to create an artificial large ward on the urban fringe.

10. Whiteleas ward

Ward is forecast to have 6,470 electors, we propose no change to the current boundary of this ward.

We believe the above would ensure all South Shields wards would have no less than 6,037 electors and we are confident that no ward would have a variance of more than 7% **based upon your population forecast for 2029.**

We attached a map identifying our proposed boundaries for the ten South Shields wards.

Ward names

We would recommend the following changes to ward names to better reflect our proposed boundaries:

Current	Proposed
Beacon and Bents	Beacon and Bents
Biddick and All Saints	Biddick and All Saints
Cleadon Park	Cleadon Park and Harton Moor
Harton	Harton
Horsley Hill	Horsley Hill and Westoe Crown
Simonside and Rekendyke	Simonside and Rekendyke
West Park	West Park
Westoe	Westoe
Whitburn and Marsden	Whitburn and Marsden
Whiteleas	Whiteleas

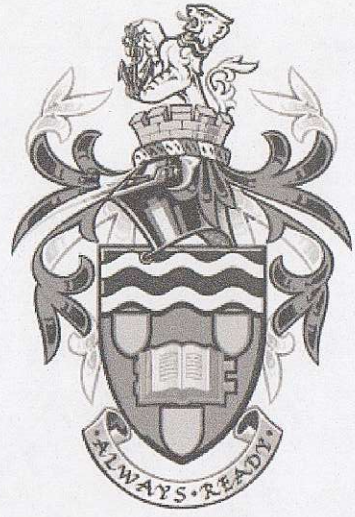
We are confident that our proposals:

- retains strong community and neighbourhood links
- are the least disruptive in population movement between wards
- retains the current identified ten ward configuration for South Shields with only minor adjustments at their individual boundaries to ensure equality of electoral size
- ensures strong demarcation boundaries between wards utilising major roads, the metro line and the expansive urban fringe green belt
- respects Parliamentary boundaries given Cleadon & East Boldon will transfer to the South Shields Parliamentary Constituency
- ensures no ward has less than 6,037 electors and that the maximum variance would be an acceptable 7%

We wish the Commissioners well in their deliberations and advise we are prepared to meet with you at any time to discuss our proposals in further detail.

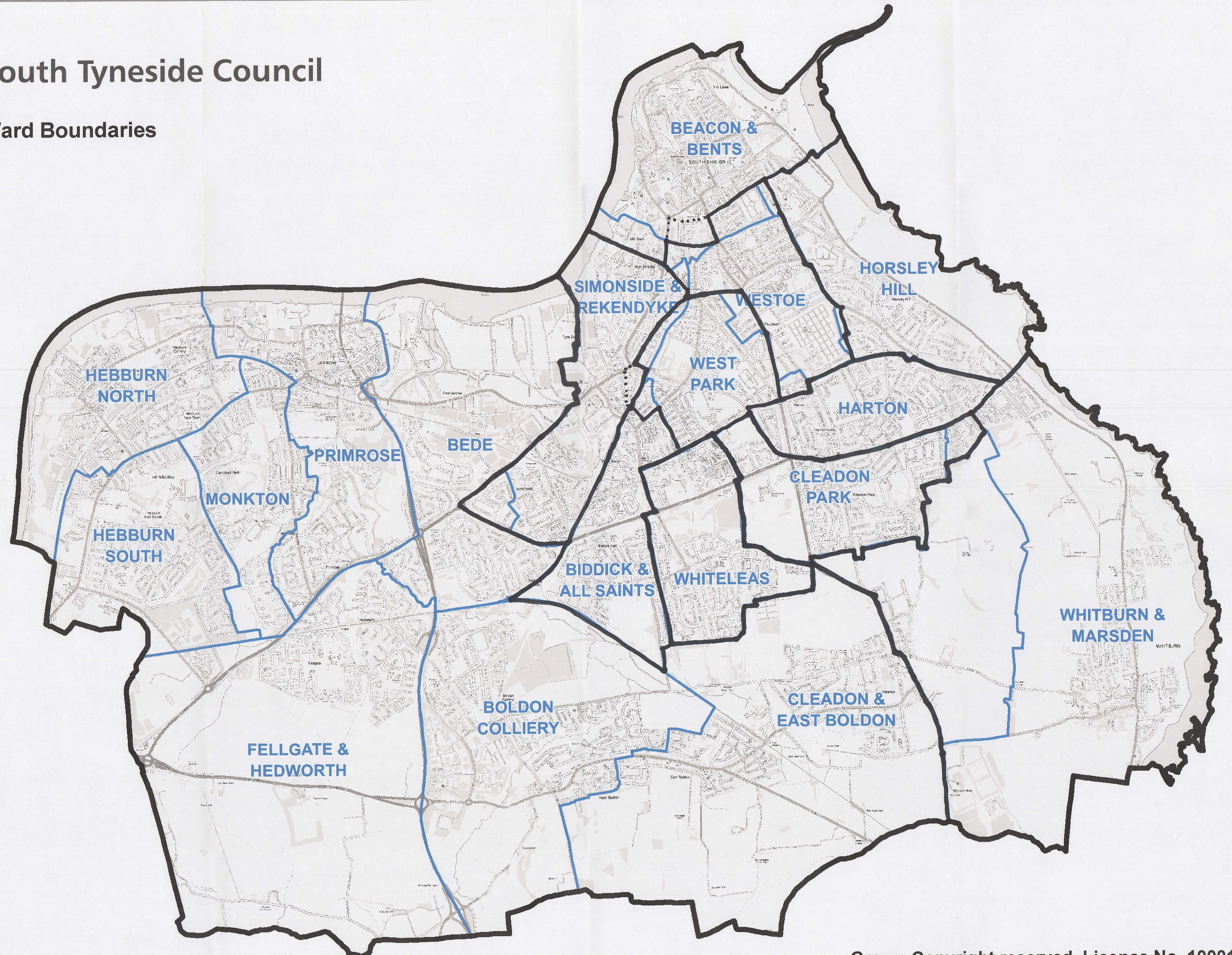
Michael H Clare
Chair, South Shields Labour Constituency Party
 Ede House, 143 Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 3PD

Note: The South Shields Constituency Labour Party has over seven hundred members and is the pre-dominant political party in South Shields. It currently holds 21 of the 30 Council seats within the South Shields Constituency. The town has had a Labour MP consistently since the 1935 General Election and prior to the 1972 Local Government reorganisation operated as a stand-alone County Borough Council.



South Tyneside Council

Ward Boundaries



South Tyneside

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: South Shields Constituency Labour Party (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

I have pleasure in sending you a copy of a Submission to your review on behalf of the South Shields Constituency Labour Party.

Please be advised that a hard copy and a map of the proposed wards has been sent to your Blyth Office via Recorded Delivery today.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

In the meantime please acknowledge when you receive this Submission.

Yours

M H Clare
CLP Chair

Attached Documents:

- Local Gvt Boundary Review.docx