

Have your say

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of divisions for Durham County Council. We have an open mind about our final recommendations, and we will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for County Durham we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

Durham County Council

Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

We aim to propose a pattern of divisions for Durham County Council which delivers:

- **Electoral equality:** each councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- **Community identity:** reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- **Effective and convenient local government:** helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

A good pattern of divisions should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Electoral equality

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity

- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed division? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities:** does your pattern of divisions reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

Write to:
Review Officer (Durham)
LGBCE,
PO Box 133, Blyth,
NE24 9FE

- **Interests:** what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- **Identifiable boundaries:** are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government

- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the divisions appropriate?

Useful tips

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Our consultation area:

lgbce.org.uk
Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Twitter:
[@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)



Who we are

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.
- We are not part of government or any political party.
- We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's electors ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of divisions or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors for each division or division.

Why County Durham?

- Durham County Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality: some councillors represent many more - or many fewer - electors than others.
- We are seeking to improve levels of electoral equality for local electors

Our proposals

- We propose that the council should have **98 councillors** in future, representing 11 three-councillor divisions, 28 two-councillor divisions, and nine single-councillor divisions across the council area.

You have until 10 July 2023 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Durham County Council should have 98 councillors, a decrease of 28 from the existing arrangements.

Those councillors should represent 11 three-councillor divisions, 28 two-councillor divisions and nine single-councillor divisions across the council area.

Before drawing up the draft recommendations, the Commission carried out a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of divisions for County Durham.

We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation. The boundaries of most divisions should change.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

We welcome comments on our draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements.

Have your say at lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham

- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.

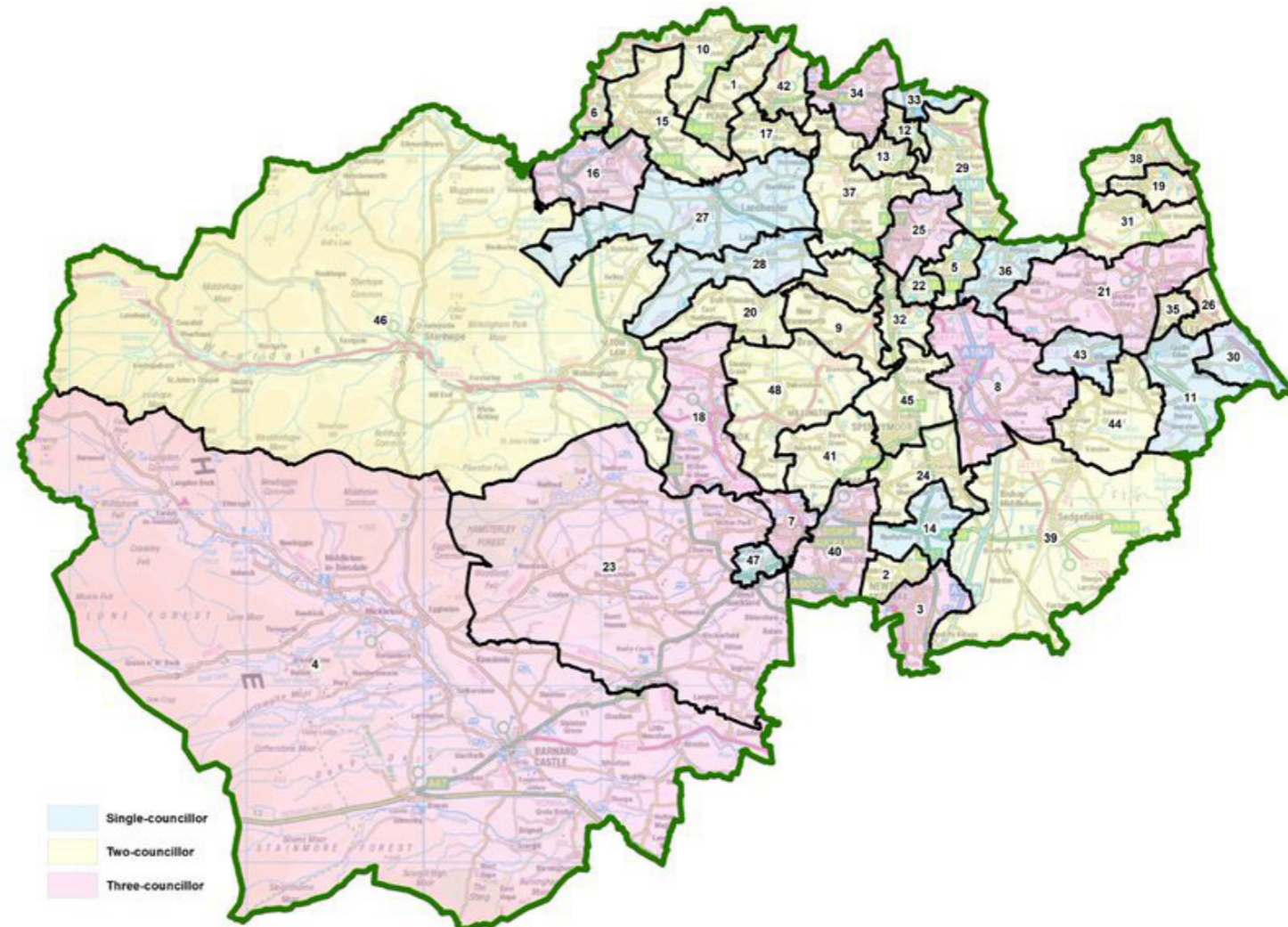
Stage of Review	Description
22 November 2022 - 30 January 2023	Public consultation on division arrangements
2 May 2023 - 10 July 2023	Public consultation on draft recommendations
November 2023	Publication of final recommendations
May 2025	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

Overview of draft recommendations for Durham County Council

View this map online:
lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham

Follow the review on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.



1	Annfield Plain & Tanfield	11	Castle Eden & Passfield	21	Easington & Shotton	31	Murton	41	Spennymoor
2	Aycliffe North & Midldridge	12	Chester-le-Street North	22	Elvet & Gilesgate	32	Neville's Cross	42	Stanley
3	Aycliffe South	13	Chester-le-Street South	23	Evenwood	33	North Lodge	43	Thornley & Wheatley Hill
4	Barnard Castle	14	Chilton	24	Ferryhill	34	Pelton	44	Trimdon & Wingate
5	Belmont	15	Consett North	25	Framwellgate & Newton Hall	35	Peterlee	45	Tudhoe
6	Benfieldside	16	Consett South	26	Horden & Dene House	36	Pittington & Sherburn	46	Weardale
7	Bishop Auckland	17	Craghead & South Moor	27	Lanchester	37	Sacriston & Witton Gilbert	47	West Auckland
8	Bowburn & Coxhoe	18	Crook	28	Langley & Esh	38	Seaham	48	Willington & Hunwick
9	Brandon	19	Dalton & Dawdon	29	Lumley & West Rainton	39	Sedgefield		
10	Burnopfield, Dipton & Ebchester	20	Deerness	30	Monk Hesleden	40	Shildon & Dene Valley		