

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Paul Stewart

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Washington and Gateshead South Constituency Labour Party (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: Washington/Sunderland North with minor city wide references

see enclosed submission

Attached Documents:

- WAGSCLP submission to draft boundary proposals.docx

Review of draft boundary proposals - City of Sunderland

Submission from Washington & Gateshead South CLP

Can we start off by thanking the commission for their hard work in undertaking a review of the 25 wards within the boundary of Sunderland. There is much to commend about work undertaken by the commission, though we do have some suggestions that we believe will further strengthen these proposals within our constituency boundaries.

Ward Names

In relation to the commission proposals, we can provide the following comments:

Washington

In relation to Washington, we fully support the commission proposal to retain existing ward names, noting that residents see themselves as primarily from Washington and not specific villages.

Hylton Castle

We are proposing that the Hylton Castle Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary, consisting of the former council housing estates of Hylton Castle and Town End Farm, together with the former UDC area of Castletown.

Your predecessors in the last review some 20 years ago also wrestled with an appropriate name for the ward, concluding that “the Castle”, as the most prominent feature of the ward, should be reflected in the name rather than any specific individual community. We are therefore proposing a name change to Castle Ward.

If you are unable to accept our proposal, then an alternative would be to incorporate the two largest communities of Castletown and Hylton Castle in the naming of the ward.

Redhouse

We are proposing that the Redhouse Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary.

Again, as referenced above, your predecessors had some difficulty in linking a specific community to use in naming of the ward, noting that it consisted of distinct communities of Upper Redhouse, Lower Redhouse, Downhill, Witherwack, Town End Farm, Wear View, Castlemede. Since the previous review we have also had the addition of the Castle Rise estate and the proposed area of Wentbridge if retained within the new ward boundary.

Your predecessors, in coming to a conclusion, took “Red” from Redhouse and “hill” from Downhill to come up with the “Redhill” name. As there has been no demand from residents for a name change, we would request the commission reconsider its decision and revert back to the Redhill Ward name. If this is not agreeable, then again, as with above, we would suggest St. Cuthbert’s as the prominent building in the ward be considered rather than any specific community. If the use of community names are a red line for the commission, then we would suggest the two biggest communities of Redhouse and Downhill be reflected in the naming of the ward.

Ward Boundaries

In relation to your draft ward boundaries, we would propose the following:

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We have some concerns over the misplacement of Washington Village (district V05) into your proposed boundary for Washington East. The centre of Washington – the village – surely needs to be in the Washington Central ward?

We would therefore refer you back to our original submission (copy enclosed) and ask you to reconsider this as a viable alternative.

Hylton Castle

we fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities.

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we would request that the commission reconsider the move of Marley Pots estate (within the current U01 area of Southwick) and place this back within the proposed Southwick Ward (see streets impacted below).

Arday Court	Ashwood Ave	Beechwood Cr	Chestnut Cr	Elmwood Ave
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Mulberry Ave	North Hylton Rd	Oaklands Cr	Old Mill Rd	Pinewood Sq
Pinewood Sq	The Poplars	Yewtree Ave	Redcar Rd	

While we note that on a map, a boundary using Old Mill Road would seem logical, it does not take into consideration the local linkage of this former Council estate with Southwick, being part of the area since it was built just after WWII. The residents consider themselves as part of Southwick, with the area itself being traced as far back as Southwick Urban District Council. While over the passage of time the boundary of Southwick Ward has changed, Marley Pots being part of it has not and in recent times can be traced back as part of the ward to the local government reorganisation of 1973.

Your proposals also suggest an area bordering Witherwack (Wentbridge/Whitchurch Road area within U03 polling area, a total of 67 electors) should be moved from the existing Southwick Ward. We are of the view that your suggestion in this case is the

right one as there is no historical linkage to Southwick and the area is adjacent to the Witherwack estate.

We did consider whether new housing being built on the former Sunderland College site within U03 (a total of 164 anticipated electors) that sits between Redhouse and Marley Pots and without established community links could also be retained, but on balance were of the opinion these properties would sit more as an extension of Marley Pots and the appropriate fit would be Southwick Ward. However, we are open to the commission considering this as an option.

The resulting revised ward will have an electorate of 8238 with a variance from the average of -7%.

Additional comments

In relation to your wider draft proposals, we can confirm our endorsement of:

- The limited proposals put forward by the council through its cross-party working group.
- The city-wide proposals put forward on behalf of Sunderland Labour Group

We believe that our suggested amendments will strengthen those put forward and in doing so have been guided – as has the commission – by ensuring these recommended changes:

- 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.

Where we have found these principles in conflict we have prioritised community links, as have the commission in their draft proposals, which we welcome.

Please therefore find enclosed below our submission to the Commission's consultation on draft ward boundaries

Yours sincerely

Councillor Paul Stewart
Chair
Washington and Gateshead South CLP

Enc. Previous submission to boundary commission

Sunderland Ward Boundary Review

Submission by Washington & Sunderland West CLP

Washington and Sunderland West Constituency Labour Party welcome the decision of the Boundary Commission to provide a short extension to the deadline for this initial public consultation stage on the linkage of communities within the city boundaries that make up the 25 current wards and their proposed revision.

In making our submission we have taken the knowledge from our Councillors, wider party membership, as well as our local residents with a view to help ensure that there is minimum disruption to existing communities. In doing so we have adhered to some key criteria in coming to our conclusions as follows:

Criteria 1

We believe that it is essential to ensure that revised ward boundaries are co-terminus with the new parliamentary boundaries now in place that will impact on Sunderland as a whole and our constituency, as referenced below:

- Washington and Gateshead East
- Houghton and Sunderland South
- Sunderland Central

Due to this being our overriding priority, we believe the commission should take each parliamentary boundary in turn to show how, in our opinion, we can ensure that residents in each of the 25 wards will have both a consistent set of Councillors but also their member of Parliament.

Our detailed assessment within this submission will show how this can be achieved within our own revised constituency boundaries.

Criteria 2

We note the number of electors proposed by the commission for their key target date of 2029 and, considering there is no proposal to remove the existing 3 councillors for each ward, that the average number of electors as set by the commission for the

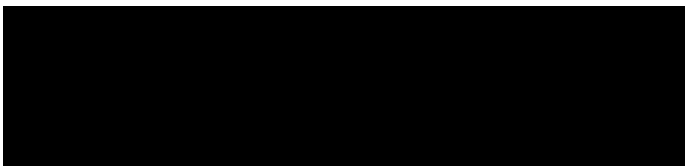
revised 25 wards will be 8847 within 10% tolerance levels of 7963 (Min) and 9731 (max).

Looking at existing ward boundaries within our constituency we have therefore looked to ensure a minimum disruption to current community boundaries except:

- a. Where there is a requirement to amend community boundaries to meet minimum/maximum thresholds set by the commission,
- b. Where there is a need to right any anomaly that may have arisen from the previous review,
- c. Where a change relates to a direct request from residents to move community boundaries,

Please therefore find enclosed below our submission to the Commission for consideration on community boundaries within the City of Sunderland, specifically relating to those wards within the new Washington and Gateshead East Parliamentary Constituency.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the councillor.

Councillor Paul Stewart,
Chair, Washington & Sunderland West CLP

Washington and Gateshead East Proposals

The current review will impact on the following wards within the boundary of the new parliamentary constituency of Washington & Gateshead East:

- Redhill
- Castle
- Washington North
- Washington East
- Washington West
- Washington South
- Washington Central

The total proposed electorate for these wards by 2029 will be 59,814, with an average 8545 electors per ward or 2848 electors per councillor. These are well within the tolerance levels of the boundary commission and allow for the existing number of wards (7) to be maintained within the new parliamentary boundary.

In applying our criteria, we therefore propose the following new revised ward boundaries.

Redhill Ward

This Ward is situated on the border with the neighbouring constituency of Sunderland Central. With a proposed electorate of 8171 in 2029, this will be within the tolerance levels set by the commission, and we therefore propose no change.

This will ensure that the whole community within Redhill Ward will have the same member of parliament as they do at present and meet the criteria we have set to minimise community disruption.

Recommendation

We therefore propose no change to Redhill Ward

Castle Ward

Resting between Redhill Ward and the A19 the proposed electorate in 2029 of 8261 electors is also within the tolerance levels set by the commission and therefore we consider there is no requirement for a change in ward boundaries at this time.

This will ensure that the community within Castle Ward will meet the criteria we have set to minimise community disruption.

Recommendation

We therefore propose no change to Castle Ward

Washington South

In having a proposed electorate of 7838 in 2029, Washington South is the only ward within this constituency that will have an electorate below the threshold set by the Commission.

In looking at options for increasing the electorate to ensure compliance with the commission, we have considered a number of options. In reviewing these we have been also guided by the geography of the ward and the current significant road barriers between local communities consisting of the A1(M), A1231, A182 and A195.

This in our opinion leaves only one realistic option for increasing the existing electorate of Washington South through the adding an additional part of the Lambton community from Washington Central (polling district V01).

We have therefore looked at several options relating to the community of Lambton and the subsequent impact this will have on ward boundaries across Washington.

Option 1

A minimalist approach to the disruption to the community of Lambton, which is currently already split between both wards, would be through simply extending the boundary with Washington South along Malvern Road. This would consist of moving the following streets into Washington South from Washington Central (district V01) and provide for an additional 340 electors (based upon the electoral register in June 2023).

- Cotswold Close (117 electors)
- Caradoc Close (75 electors)
- Chiltern Close (65 electors)
- Malvern Road No 1-49 (83 electors)

This option will ensure the revised electoral figures for Washington South of 8178 and within the minimum thresholds set by the commission.

Option 2

We did look at consideration of moving the whole community of Lambton into Washington South (the electoral register at June 2023 showed this as 1118 electors) and while this would ensure the community boundaries were retained, we have rejected this as a realistic option due to impact on Washington Central and the subsequent requirement to significantly amend its boundaries beyond the A1231 or A195, resulting in considerable disruption to communities within other parts of Washington.

Recommendation

We consider option 1 to be viable solution for increasing the electorate for Washington South and, through adhering to our set criteria, will cause minimum disruption and on balance we are recommending this to the commission.

Washington Central

Washington Central will have an electorate of 8541 by 2029 and is therefore compliant within the criteria set by the commission. The boundary of the existing community rests predominantly between the major road network of the A1231 and

the A195. These are considered significant barriers to local communities and movement beyond these, we believe, should only be considered if there are no other options to ensure compliance with the min/max criteria set by the commission.

In applying our own criteria that has governed this submission we would have recommended no change, but for the need to move some of the electorate in district V01 into Washington South that will reduce Central ward by 340 electors (see Washington South proposals for details).

In addition, the local councillors for both Washington East and Central have received representations as part of their local consultation from residents to move their isolated community within Washington East (district W05) into Washington Central, the impact being an increase of 179 electors as at June 2023. The streets affected are:

- Barmston Close (34 electors)
- Barmston Court (76 Electors)
- Station Road (12 electors)
- Lakeside Gardens (57 electors)

Though this suggestion goes against our guiding criteria, the voice of the residents were clear that they consider themselves part of the wider community of Columbia, which is based within Washington Central.

The loss of 340 electors to Washington South and the gain of 179 electors from Washington East will result in 2029 an electorate of 8380.

Recommendation

We consider this to be viable solution for increasing the electorate for Washington South and accommodating the specific request from a small number of residents in Washington East. Following our set criteria this will be achieved with minimal impact on the current community of Washington Central. On balance we are recommending these changes to the commission.

Washington North

The proposed size of North Ward in 2029 of 8688 does not require any adjustment. However, local councillors from Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area, currently within Washington West (district of Z04), and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
- Kellett Close (42 electors)

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect residents requests and will have a slight impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North to 8813 and reduce the size of Washington West by 125 electors.

Recommendation

We therefore recommend these minor changes to the commission for Washington North at the request of residents, while ensuring we adhere to our criteria of minimising disruption to the community.

Washington East

Washington East will have a proposed electorate of 9124 in 2029 and is therefore within the tolerance levels set by the commission and therefore, under these circumstances, we would propose no change in the community boundaries.

However, we have received a request from residents in a relatively isolated community within Washington East (district W05) to move into Washington Central, the impact being an reduction of 179 electors for the East ward. For details, please see proposals for Central ward.

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect residents requests while ensuring that disruption to the community within Washington East Ward is minimised.

Recommendation

We consider this to be viable solution for Washington East to accommodate the specific request from a small number of residents and on balance we are recommending these changes to the commission.

Washington West

Washington West will have a proposed electorate of 9191 in 2029 and is therefore within the tolerance levels set by the commission and does not require any adjustment.

However, as referenced earlier, local councillors in Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area currently within Washington West (district of Z04) and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
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This will have an impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North by 125 electors and reduce the size of Washington West to 9066 electors.

Recommendation

We therefore recommend these minor changes to the commission for Washington West at the request of residents, while ensuring we adhere to our criteria of minimising disruption to the community.

Conclusion

The outcome of these recommended proposals for electorate size in 2029, within the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East, would be within the tolerance levels set by the commission and achieved with the minimum disruption to local communities as shown below:

	Electors as at 2029 with current boundaries	Electorate in 2029 if recommendations accepted
Castle	8261	8261
Redhill	8171	8171
Washington South	7838	8178
Washington Central	8541	8380
Washington North	8688	8813
Washington West	9191	9066
Washington East	9124	8945

We therefore recommend these proposals, relating to the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East to the commission for consideration.

Sunderland

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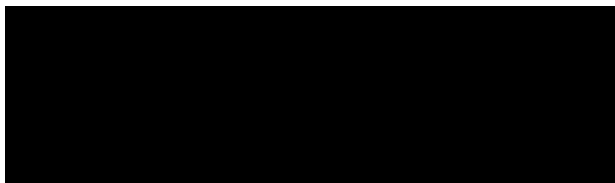
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Recommendation

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Recommendation

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Washington North

The proposed size of North Ward in 2029 of 8688 does not require any adjustment. However, local councillors from Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area, currently within Washington West (district of Z04), and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

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Recommendation

We therefore recommend these minor changes to the commission for Washington North at the request of residents, while ensuring we adhere to our criteria of minimising disruption to the community.

Washington East

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Conclusion

The outcome of these recommended proposals for electorate size in 2029, within the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East, would be within the tolerance levels set by the commission and achieved with the minimum disruption to local communities as shown below:

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Washington West	9191	9066
Washington East	9124	8945

We therefore recommend these proposals, relating to the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East to the commission for consideration.