

Sunderland

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Comment text:

Related subject: Citywide

Please find attached a citywide submission of recommended boundaries on behalf of Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party

Attached Documents:

- Sunderland Central Submission to LGBC.docx

Submission on behalf of Sunderland Central Labour Party to the Local Government Boundary Commission draft electoral arrangements for Sunderland City Council.

We thank the LGBC for the work to date on the new arrangements for Sunderland, however, we would like to set out various alternative arrangements. Arrangements that in our view better reflect the criteria set out by the commission namely:

1. Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents
2. Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
3. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

We acknowledge also that the commission have indicated that they are minded to recommend, that Sunderland City Council is comprised of 75 councillors from 25 electoral wards.

We have based our revised recommendations to fit into that criterion. On the bases that the Coalfield area increases from 4 wards to 5 wards. That Washington remains at 5 wards and the remaining 15 wards are comprised from within the section of the city that is east of the A19.

North-West Sunderland

Hylton Castle Ward

We support the commission's recommendation with respect of the proposed Hylton Castle ward.

Redhouse Ward

We are also generally supportive of the commission's recommendation with respect to the proposed Redhouse Ward. However, we would propose transferring those properties situated within Marley Potts that are currently in the U01 (Southwick) polling district from Redhouse Ward back into the proposed Southwick Ward.

Namely the electors in: *Old Mill Road, Mulberry Avenue, Marley Crescent, Chestnut Crescent, Beechwood Crescent, Oaklands Crescent, Elmwood Avenue, Ashwood Avenue, Hazelwood Avenue, Hollywood Avenue, Maplewood Avenue, Pinewood Road, Yew Tree Avenue, Redcar Road, and Benedict Way.*

This would result in 876 (2029) electors transferring from the proposed Redhouse Ward into the proposed Southwick Ward. That would result in the proposed Redhouse ward having an electorate of 8483 (2029).

Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for Redhouse Ward of 2828 – which would reduce the variance from +6% to -4%

We argue that this would better reflect the local community identity and provide, more effective and equal ward boundaries.

With regards to the proposed wards south of the River Wear in this part of the city we propose the following amendments

Pallion Ward

We propose to retain the current Pallion Ward (K01, K02, K03, K04, K05) with the addition of the N03 polling district from the current St Anne's Ward.

That would give our proposed Pallion Ward a total of 9568 (2029) electors.

Which would equate to 3189 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 8%.

Broadway Ward

We propose to amend the commission recommendation for the Pennywell Ward into a ward we have named Broadway Ward.

In our submission the new ward would be comprised of the following current polling districts: N01 (St Anne's); N02 (St Anne's); N04 (St Anne's) R04 (Sandhill) and 1929 electors from R05 (Sandhill).

It is our intention to transfer the electors from R05 in Gleneagles Road, Gravesend Road, Goldsmith Road, North Farm Avenue, Northfield Drive Gurnsey Road, Gurnsey Square, Gambia Square, Greensheild Square, Greensheild Road, Gambia Road, Glover Road, Gregory Road, and Gordon Road into our new proposed Thorney Close Ward (see South Sunderland section for further details).

The above give our proposed Broadway Ward a total (2029) electorate of 9498 which equates to 3166 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 7%.

Barnes Ward

As with Pallion Ward we believe that you can retain the current Barnes Ward (A01, A02, A03, A04 & A05) with the addition of the P01 polling district from the current St Michael's Ward.

That would give our proposed Barnes Ward a total of 9398 (2029) electors.

Which would equate to 3132 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 6%.

North East Sunderland

Southwick Ward

We are supportive of the recommendations for the proposed Southwick Ward with the addition of the 876 electors from Marley Potts as set out in the submission for Redhouse Ward.

This would result in the revised Southwick Ward increasing to 9153 (2029) electors from the initial proposal of 8277.

Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for Southwick Ward of 3051 which would reduce the variance from -6% to +3%

As detailed in the Redhouse Ward submission we argue these minor changes between the proposed Southwick and Redhouse wards would better reflect the local community identity and provide more effective, and equal ward boundaries.

Fulwell Ward

We support the commission's recommendation with respect of the proposed Fullwell ward.

Roker Ward

We support the commission's recommendation with respect of the proposed Roker ward.

Central Ward

We strongly disagree with the boundaries of the proposed Central Ward. We believe that splitting the community of Hendon into two separate wards via a boundary at Vilette Road would cause significant detrimental impact to one of the most deprived areas of Sunderland.

We believe that it would significantly harm the administration of services to have Hendon divided into two electoral areas. For generations Hendon as a community has been included in its own ward. Long standing and well-established community organisations have operated for many years within one ward and now face the prospect of being split down the middle.

Additionally, it would also cause confusion with the residents who currently find themselves residing in a ward that is familiar and well known and easily understood.

On the proposed boundaries residents of Hendon could depending on what side of Vilette Road they live find themselves in an electoral ward that stretches as far West as the Queen Alexandra Bridge and as far south as Hollycarside. We would argue that these proposed boundaries fundamentally go against the commissions criteria of the new electoral arrangements' recommendations reflect community identity.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the commission's proposal for Central Ward.

That the revised Central Ward is comprised of the following existing polling districts:

F01 (Hendon) – 2197; J01 (Millfield) – 1414; J02 (Millfield) – 1772; J04 (Millfield) – 2224; J05 (Millfield) – 572

That would give you a total (2029) electorate in the Central Ward of 8179 electors.

Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for Central Ward of 2726 – which would reduce the variance from +5% to -8%

We believe this would ensure the commission better meets its criteria of reflecting community ties for the Hendon area which we will set out further details of in South Sunderland section.

South Sunderland

Ryhope Ward

We support in general the commission's recommendation with respect of the proposed Ryhope Ward. However, we would propose two minor amendments.

The first is we propose removing 1277 electors that are currently in the M02 (Ryhope) polling district that are proposed to be added into the new Grangetown Ward back into the proposed Ryhope Ward.

Namely the electors in: *Lynden Road, Lynthorpe, Lyngrove, Hewitt Avenue, Poplar Grove, Lilian Avenue, Ralph Avenue, Atlee Grove, Leechmere Way, Hollycarside Road, Edmond Court, Langhurst, Cherry Tree Square, Rosebank Close, Gairsay Close, Ronaldsay Close, Wetray Close, Sandsay Close, Orkney Drive, Leatham, Linskill and Lansdowne.*

This in our view better reflects the community ties in the area by ensuring that all of Hollycarside is within the same electoral area. We also believe that the residents of Hollycarside look to the Ryhope community for their services and consider themselves to have deeper historical connections to Ryhope than they do Grangetown.

To ensure all wards across the city have as equal a number of electors as possible we propose to remove 1426 electors that are currently in D05 (Doxford) polling district that are currently proposed to be included in the Ryhope Ward are added into the proposed Doxford Ward.

Therefore, the proposed western boundary of the Ryhope ward would move back to the previous and current boundary at the M03 polling district.

That would require the electors in: *Bracknell Close, Tunstall Village Green, Paddock Lane, Hawsker Close, Fylingdale Drive, Runswick Close, Houlsey Close, Lidcombe Close, Ainthorpe Close, Goathland Drive, Withernsea Grove, Ryemount Road, Runnymede, Richmond, Ravensworth, Runcorn, Rachel Close, Ravell Close, Rodney Close, Ridgeway, Rothbury, Ramilies and Rushford.*

To be transferred out of the proposed Ryhope Ward and into the proposed Doxford Ward.

These changes would result in the proposed Ryhope Ward having 8544 (2029) electors. Which equates to 2848 electors per councillor, which changes the variance for Ryhope Ward from -2% to -4%

Hendon & Grangetown Ward

We recognise the commission's rationale in proposing a Grangetown Ward but as set out in our submission for the Central Ward we strongly believe that this should not be to the detriment of existing communities such as Hendon.

We believe you can meet the commissions intention of giving greater clarity to the residents of Grangetown as well as protecting the interests of the residents of

Hendon by amending the proposed Grangetown ward into a new ward we have called Hendon and Grangetown.

We believe that by combining the following existing polling districts you can create a new ward that meets the commissions criteria:

F02 (Hendon) – 1978; F03 (Hendon) – 1229; F04 (Hendon) – 1679; F05 (Hendon) – 1525; M01 (Ryhope) – 1554; a section of P04 (St Michael's) – 79 and a section of P05(St Michael's) – 668

For ease of reference where we have proposed taking only a section of a current polling district, we have set out the streets concerned:

Namely the 79 electors in *Westheath Avenue* that is currently in P04 (St Michael's) and the 668 electors in P05 (St Michael's) in *Hardgate Road, Sea View Road, The Sycamores, Victoria Avenue, Victoria Avenue West, Woodstock Avenue, Queen Alexandra Road, Leechmere Road, Wroxham Court, Westheath Avenue and Warnham Road & Weldon Avenue*.

That would give you a total electorate in the new Hendon and Grangetown Ward of 8712 (2029) electors.

Which would give an average number of electors per councillor for of 2904 – which would give a variance of -2%

We argue that the new proposed Hendon and Grangetown Ward better reflects community identity by combining the communities of Hendon and Grangetown into one single ward.

Hendon and Grangetown have well established links and many shared services such as transport links, community groups and voluntary associations. Educational links with both areas primary schools feeding into Southmoor Academy.

We strongly encourage the commission to adopt this proposal as we believe it better fits the existing communities. We advocate that it would mean services provided by the City Council and other agencies are better applied ensuring no community is negatively impacted by the changes.

Doxford Ward

We agree in most part with the commission's proposed Doxford Ward. We would however offer two small amendments.

First is set out in our proposal for Ryhope Ward which is to transfer 1426 electors in the current D05 polling district from the proposed Ryhope Ward back into our revised Doxford Ward.

This would mean our proposed Doxford Ward is made up of the electors in current polling districts D01, D02, D03, D04, 1426 electors from D05.

This would give our proposed Doxford Ward a total electorate of 9234 (2029) which would equate to 3078 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 4%.

Silksworth Ward

We believe that you can meet the commissions requirements by retaining most of the current Silksworth Ward with a few minor amendments.

We argue you should retain the current Silksworth Ward as currently constituted with the additions of all the electors in O01 (St Chad's) and 914 electors from O02 (St Chad's) polling district.

That would give you an electorate of 9858 (2029) electors in our revised Silksworth Ward. This would give you 3286 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 10%.

As a consequence, the creation of our new proposed Broadway Ward it is necessary to reconfigure the remaining wards in the South Sunderland area, we have done so in the following way,

Thorney Close Ward

We propose creating a new ward we have called Thorney Close in response to Thorney Close being the largest community in the new ward.

Our Thorney Close Ward would comprise of the current polling districts: R01 (Sandhill), R02 (Sandhill), R03 (Sandhill), O03 (St Chad's), O04 (St Chad's), O05 (St Chad's).

As set out in the proposal for the Broadway Ward to ensure all the wards have as equal number of electors as possible it is necessary to transfer the 691 electors named in the streets in the Broadway Ward submission into the new proposed Thorney Close Ward. We would do this by amending the boundary of the current R03 polling district to include those streets. This would increase that polling districts electors to 2652.

Meaning our proposed Thorney Close Ward would have a total electorate of 9749 (2029) electors. Which would equate to 3249 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 9%.

Ashbrooke and Tunstall Ward

We propose the remaining electors in the South Sunderland area are comprised into a new ward we have named Ashbrooke and Tunstall Ward.

The new proposed Ward would include the electors in the current polling districts of: J03 (Millfield), P02 (St Michael's), P03 (St Michael's) and the remaining electors not transferred to the new proposed Hendon and Grangetown Ward in P04 & P05 (St Michael's Ward).

This would give the new proposed ward of Ashbrooke and Tunstall a total electorate of 8984 (2029) electors which would equate to 2994 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 2%.

Washington

We support the commissions' recommendations in relation to Washington.

Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row are collectively known as the “Coalfield Area”.

We agree with the commission’s recommendation that this area increases from four wards to five wards.

We would recommend the commission amend the boundaries of the new wards as follows:

Shiney Row Ward

We propose retaining the current Shiney Row Ward minus the electors from the current S04 polling district which we propose are transferred into a new ward we are calling Newbottle.

Therefore, our proposed Shiney Row ward would comprise of the electors in the current S01, S02, S03, S05 and S06 polling districts.

This would give the new Shiney Row Ward a total electorate of 9018 (2029) electors which would equate to 3006 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of 2%.

Newbottle Ward

In order to increase the number of wards from four to five in the Hetton and Houghton are, we propose to create a new ward from 3 current wards. We are calling this ward Newbottle Ward and it would be comprised of electors in the current polling districts:

C05 & C06 (Copt Hill); H04 & H05 (Houghton) and S04 (Shiney Row).

Therefore, our proposed Newbottle Ward would have a total of 8128 (2029) electors, which would equate to 2709 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of -9%.

Houghton Ward

We propose retaining a Houghton Ward. Our proposed Houghton Ward would comprise of current polling districts H01, H02 & H03 (Houghton) and G03 (Hetton).

In order to ensure that all wards are of equal as number of electors it is necessary to transfer the 137 electors that reside on Houghtonside, which is currently in H03 polling district into our proposed Copt Hill Ward.

This would mean that our proposed Houghton Ward would have a total electorate (2029) of 8266, which equates to 2755 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of -7%.

Copt Hill Ward

We propose retaining the vast majority of the current Copt Hill Ward. Namely current polling districts C01, C02, C03 and C04

In addition to the transfer of the 137 electors from Houghtonside that are currently in H03 polling district.

In order to ensure our proposed Copt Hill is in the range of the commissions thresholds we propose to transfer 638 electors from the current G02 (Hetton) polling district into our proposed Copt Hill.

Namely the electors in Front Street, Richard Street, John Street, Pemberton Street, Railway Street, Union Street, Barnes Street, Caroline Street, Scotts Terrace, Stephenson Close, Victoria Street, The Avenue, Summerson Street, South Market Street, Victory Street East, Victory Street West, Woodlea Close, Vicarage Close, Louvaine Terrace and Houghton Road.

This would mean that our proposed Copt Hill Ward would have a total electorate of 8021 (2029) electors, which would equate to 2673 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of -10%.

Hetton Ward

We propose retaining a Hetton Ward. Our proposed Hetton Ward would cover the existing polling districts of G01, G02, G04 & G05.

As set out in the submission for the Copt Hill Ward we propose to transfer 638 electors from G02 into our proposed Copt Hill Ward.

That would give a total electorate for Hetton Ward of 7981 (2029) electors, which would equate to 2660 electors per councillor. Which works out at a variance of -10%.

We argue that these two wards have a remarkably similar range of the electorate proposed by the commission for the Roker Ward of 7995 and therefore should be acceptable and would also remove the need for a ward to cross the A19.