

New electoral arrangements for Sunderland City Council New Draft Recommendations

February 2024

New draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Sunderland City Council

Electoral review

February 2024

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Sunderland?	2
Our proposals for Sunderland	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Have your say	3
Review timetable	3
Analysis and new draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations	7
New draft recommendations	8
North-West Sunderland	9
North-East Sunderland	13
South Sunderland	16
Coalfield	21
Washington	24
Conclusions	27
Summary of electoral arrangements	27
Parish electoral arrangements	27
Have your say	29
Equalities	33
Appendices	35
Appendix A	35
New draft recommendations for Sunderland City Council	35
Appendix B	38
Outline map	38
Appendix C	40
Submissions received	40
Appendix D	42
Glossary and abbreviations	42

Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament¹. 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.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

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

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Why Sunderland?

7 We are conducting a review of Sunderland City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Sunderland are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the City.

Our proposals for Sunderland

9 Sunderland should be represented by 75 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Sunderland should have 25 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the City or result in changes to postcodes. They do not consider parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Have your say

14 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for area. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the City. The submissions received during consultation informed our draft recommendations.

15 We will consult on the new draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 27 February 2024 to 22 April 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

16 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

17 You have until 22 April 2024 to have your say on the new draft recommendations. See page 29 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
11 April 2023	Number of councillors decided
9 May 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 July 2023	End of consultation following a two-week extension; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 October 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 December 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
27 February 2024	Publication of new draft recommendations and start of consultation
22 April 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 July 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and new draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2023	2029
Electorate of Sunderland	206,971	221,204
Number of councillors	75	75
Average number of electors per councillor	2,760	2,949

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Sunderland will have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2029.

25 During our initial warding consultation, the Council informed us that the projected electorates of three polling districts had been misassigned due to a clerical error, and later requested a two-week extension to the consultation. We accepted

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

this request and extended the consultation deadline from 17 July 2023 to 31 July 2023.

26 We considered the revised information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our new draft recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Sunderland City Council currently has 75 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 75 councillors.

29 As Sunderland City Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend uniform patterns in the number of councillors per ward or division if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

30 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns, one of which was made by Councillor Michael Butler. Two of these submissions appeared to be made on the assumption that the number of councillors would be decreased. A third argued there were too many councillors but did not provide evidence to support this claim. We are content that a 75-member council remains the right number of councillors and have based our draft recommendations on this number.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 40 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two city-wide proposals from Sunderland Conservatives ('the Conservatives'), as well as Wearside Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Democrat Group on Sunderland City Council ('the Liberal Democrats'). We also received two partial schemes from Houghton & Sunderland South Constituency Labour Party and Washington & Sunderland West Constituency Labour Party. There was no Labour submission for the area covered by the Sunderland Central

⁵ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c)

constituency. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city. Four of these submissions were made by Councillor Paul Edgeworth and included a number of letters from residents. Although these letters were individually signed by residents, the letters in each submission were identical to one another, so we have listed these as four petition letters.

32 The two city-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Sunderland. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats made detailed, well-evidenced submissions in support of their warding arrangements, though our calculations found both to contain several wards with electoral variances outside of $\pm 10\%$. However, as the Liberal Democrat scheme had better electoral equality overall, we chose this as the basis of our draft recommendations, incorporating elements of the Conservative scheme where we felt this offered a better balance of our statutory criteria.

33 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

34 We undertook a virtual tour the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Sunderland helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

35 We received 274 submissions in response to our consultation on our initial set of draft recommendations. These included four detailed city-wide proposals from a cross-party working group of the Council, the Conservative Party in Sunderland ('the Conservatives'), the Labour Party ('Labour') and Wearside Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats'). Councillor Melville Speding submitted a partial scheme for the Coalfield area of the City. These were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 75 councillors. Submissions were made by a number of Labour and Labour-affiliated organisations, including the Labour Group on Sunderland City Council, the Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party, Shiney Row Branch Labour Party, Redhill Labour, Washington & Gateshead South Constituency Labour Party and the Sunderland Branch of the Co-operative Party. These submissions were generally in agreement with one another so will be referred to as 'Labour' for the purposes of this report, individual organisation names being used only where they differ.

36 A significant proportion of the submissions made expressed concern with our draft recommendations in the areas of Hollycarrside and Silksworth; concerns which could not be addressed without significantly redrawing the warding pattern of the South Sunderland area. This has most notably resulted in the disappearance of Tunstall & Humbledon ward and the introduction of a new St. Chad's ward. This had knock-on effects in the southern region of the authority which, together with locally-proposed changes to the warding pattern in North-East and North-West Sunderland, as well as more minor changes in Washington, means we are proposing a drastically new warding pattern for the City.

37 We also undertook an in-person tour of the City which confirmed our view that these changes had merit. In light of the above, we consider it proper to test these new recommendations in a further round of consultation before we finalise our recommendations.

New draft recommendations

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our new draft recommendations for each area of Sunderland. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

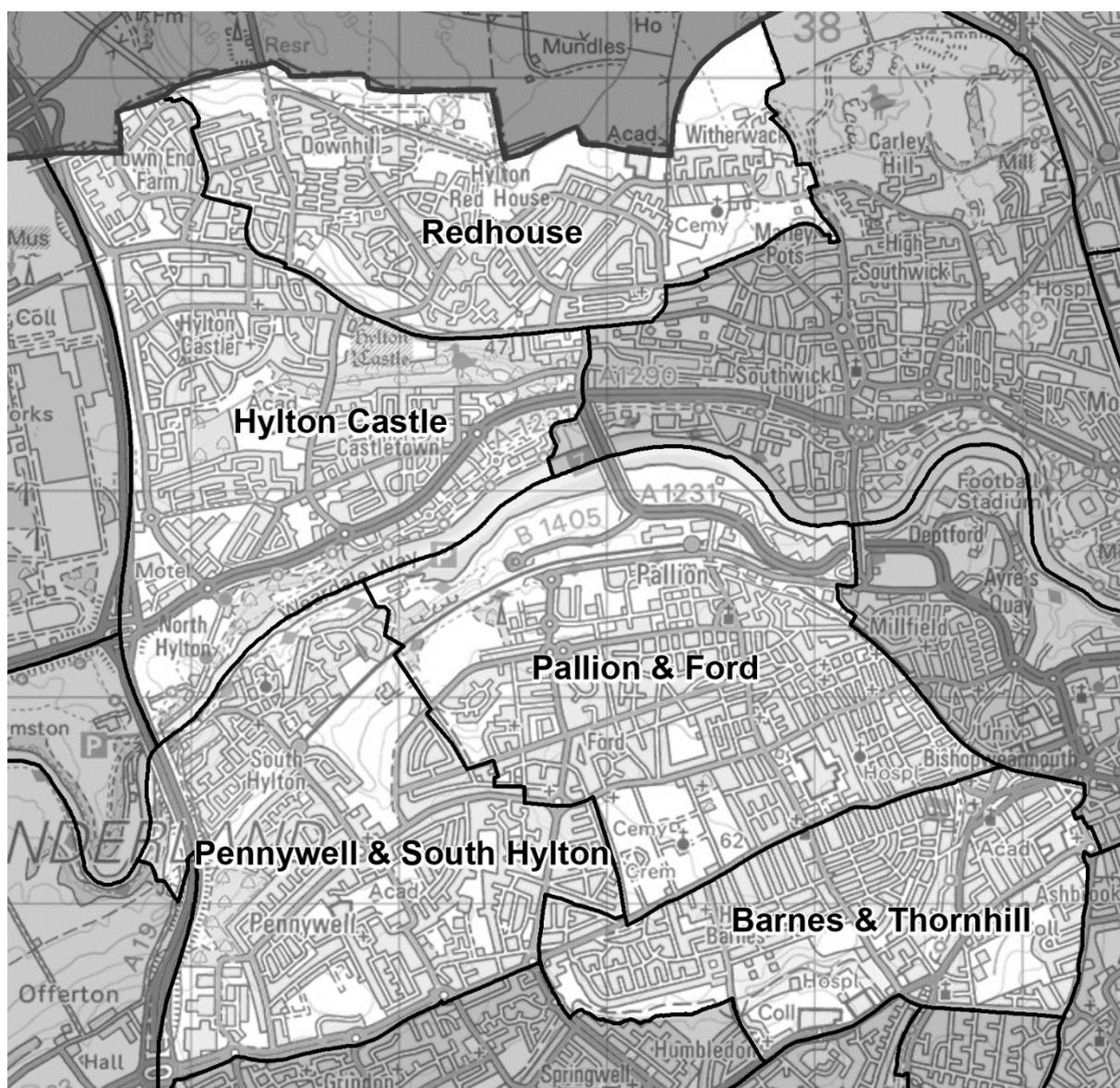
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 35 and on the large map accompanying this report.

40 We welcome all comments on these new draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North-West Sunderland



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Barnes & Thornhill	3	8%
Hylton Castle	3	-7%
Pallion & Ford	3	10%
Pennywell & South Hylton	3	-1%
Redhouse	3	-7%

Barnes & Thornhill

41 We received 20 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Barnes & Thornhill ward, most of which were supportive, but which took the view that all of Barnes Park ought to be included in the ward, rather than being split between this ward and Tunstall & Humbledon. This included the schemes submitted by the

Conservatives, the Council and the Liberal Democrats.

42 Several submissions, including those from the Conservatives and the Barnes Residents' Association, also argued that Ettrick Grove should not be divided but included in Barnes & Thornhill ward. It was also proposed that the ward include the Bede Campus of Sunderland College, with the southern boundary of the ward following the A690. The Liberal Democrats argued that the area of Ashbrooke west of Tunstall Road and north of Queen Alexandra Road should be included in Tunstall & Humbledon ward instead of Barnes & Thornhill in order to unite Ashbrooke within a single ward.

43 Labour proposed a radically different Barnes ward which was bounded by The Broadway to the north, Springwell Road to the west, Premier Road and Essen Way to the south and Newlands Avenue, Thornholme Road and Durham Road to the east. This ward was proposed as part of a general re-warding of the City in their submitted scheme.

44 As mentioned in paragraph 36, we received a significant number of critical submissions regarding our proposals in Hollycarrside and Silksworth, and sought to address these concerns in our warding pattern for the Sunderland city area. While the Labour proposals did address residents' concerns in Hollycarrside, they did not in Silksworth, and the scheme included several wards with electoral variances outside the $\pm 10\%$ threshold, including Doxford at 25%, Broadway at 19% and both Silksworth and Hendon & Grangetown at 12%. It is for this reason that we have not adopted the Labour scheme in the Sunderland city area.

45 When considering our proposals for Barnes & Thornhill ward we were satisfied that Barnes Park ought to be included in the ward in its entirety and, furthermore, that both ends of Ettrick Grove should be united in the ward. We noted that the southern end of Ettrick Grove, which we placed in Tunstall & Humbledon in our draft recommendations, has residences only on the east side; the west side branching off into Shrewsbury Crescent, Shaftesbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue, the houses of which are positioned side-on to Ettrick Grove. We therefore extended the southern boundary of Barnes & Thornhill along the centre of Ettrick Grove and Durham Road.

46 The Liberal Democrats argued that Broadmayne Avenue, Broadmayne Gardens, Brierfield Grove and North Hall Road were considered part of Barnes, despite being north of The Broadway, and proposed including them and the north side of The Broadway in the ward. We were satisfied that this would improve community representation in the area, as well as better reflecting community identities in our proposed Pallion and Pennywell wards (see below), so have adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations. These combined adjustments increase the variance of Barnes & Thornhill ward from 2% to 8%.

Pallion & Ford and Pennywell & South Hylton

47 We received 19 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Pallion and Pennywell wards. The majority of these were critical of the way in which we split the Ford Estate by drawing the boundary between the two wards down the middle of Front Road. These included submissions from Councillors Martin Haswell, Niall Hodson, Ciaran Morrissey, Julia Potts and Andrew Wood.

48 The point was made by many residents and councillors that there was a strong sense of community on the estate, which could be partly identified by the large number of roads beginning with the letter 'F'. While Councillor Haswell proposed retaining the existing boundary between Pallion and Pennywell – running along Hylton Road, Flodden Road, Padgate Road, Fordfield Road and St Luke's Road – there is a considerable amount of development underway in the area which makes this unviable. Others recommended including only the 'F-roads' in Pallion ward, while the Liberal Democrats proposed a variation on the existing boundaries which would exclude Broadmayne Avenue, Broadmayne Gardens, Brierfield Grove and North Hall Road from Pallion ward. The Liberal Democrats also proposed to include the 'H-roads' on the east side of Holborn Road in a Pennywell ward, as well as Penn Square, Petersham Road, Portrush Road, Prescott Road and Prestwick Road. This results in electoral variances of 10% for Pallion and -1% for Pennywell. These wards were renamed Pallion & Ford and Pennywell & South Hylton to reflect community identities. The name 'Pennywell & South Hylton' was also proposed by the Conservatives.

49 The Labour scheme in this area proposed a Pallion ward which was similar to the existing one with the addition of Halesworth Drive and its connected streets, Packham Road, Palgrove Road, Palmstead Road, Palmstead Square, Penwood Road, Pinner Road, Pitcairn Road, Portchester Road and Rowan Close. This ward would have an electoral variance of 8%. However, this proposal also included a Broadway ward with a variance of 19%, being the remainder of the existing St. Anne's ward with the addition of Grindon and Hastings Hill. Apart from the high electoral inequality in this ward, we also received 47 submissions from residents of Sandhill ward making clear they did not want Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close being divided between two or more wards. We have therefore adopted the Liberal Democrat proposals for Pallion & Ford and Pennywell & South Hylton in our new draft recommendations.

Hylton Castle & Redhouse

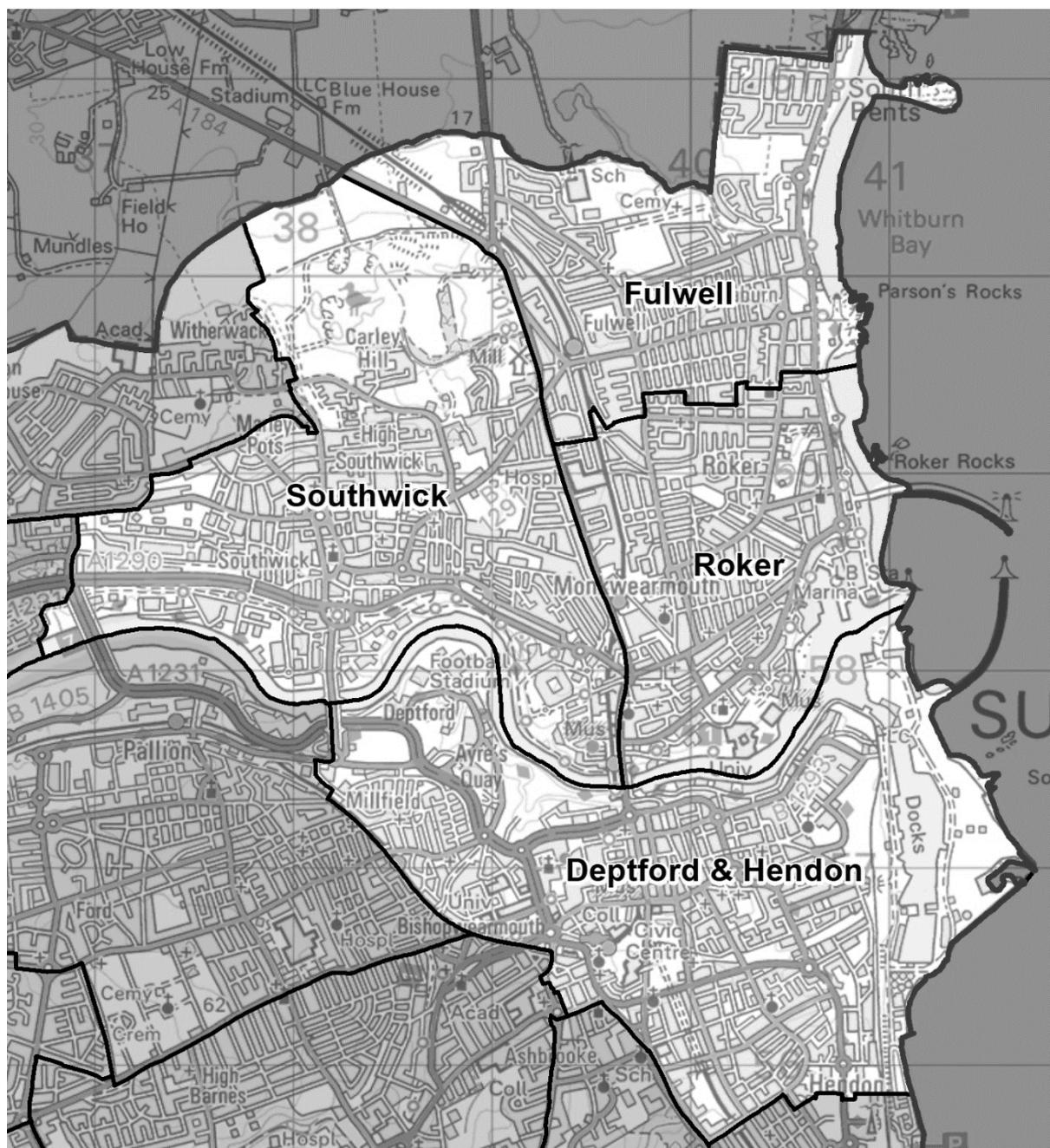
50 We received two submissions from residents, both of which were broadly supportive of our proposed wards, though one supported the proposal by the Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party to include the Marley Pots area in Southwick ward instead of Redhouse, a proposal which was made to better reflect community identities. While we had included Marley Pots in Redhouse in our draft recommendations, we note that it is presently included in the existing Southwick

ward, and are content to adopt this proposal in our new draft recommendations, both to reflect local communities there and in the neighbouring Fulwell ward (see paragraphs 59–61).

51 The submission from Sunderland Labour Group also supported including Marley Pots in Southwick ward but made the additional proposal that Redhouse and Hylton Castle should revert to their existing names of Redhill and Castle. The group noted that the name ‘Redhill’ was a portmanteau of Redhouse and Downhill and was formulated in an attempt to improve community representation in the ward but that, if this was not acceptable, ‘St. Cuthbert’s’ should be adopted instead owing to the prominent position of St. Cuthbert’s Church. Both these suggestions were explicitly rejected by the Liberal Democrats.

52 Likewise, the Sunderland Labour Group objected to the name of Hylton Castle, arguing ‘Castle’ should be retained, as it denotes the ward’s most prominent feature. The group noted that ‘Hylton Castle’ refers to only one estate and also offered ‘Castletown & Hylton Castle’ as an alternative ward name. We noted the Conservatives objected to retaining the existing names of both wards on the basis that they are ‘vague and artificial – neither is a proper place name’. We furthermore note that no objections have been received from residents and, in the case of the proposed ‘Castletown & Hylton Castle’, we believe this name is too repetitious. We have therefore not adopted these proposals in our new draft recommendations.

North-East Sunderland



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Deptford & Hendon	3	10%
Fulwell	3	0%
Roker	3	-1%
Southwick	3	-3%

Deptford & Hendon

53 We received 20 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Central ward. A number of submissions were from residents opposed to Hendon

being split between Central and Grangetown wards along Vilette Road, though this was supported by a resident and Councillor Niall Hodson. Others were opposed to the inclusion in this ward of a portion of the existing St. Michael's ward east of Stockton Road. There were also a number of objections to the name 'Central' on the basis that Sunderland is a cross-river city and its centre straddles both banks. The Conservative and Liberal Democrat submissions were content with the boundaries of the ward, only suggesting renaming it 'City Centre' and 'Deptford & Hendon', respectively.

54 Labour again proposed a significantly different ward. This Central ward, with an electoral variance of -8%, comprised the existing Millfield ward north of the railway line plus the existing Hendon ward north of Borough Road, Hudson Road, Wear Street and Moor Terrace. However, while we recognise that this proposed ward makes use of clear boundaries and offers good electoral equality, it is 'locked into' a scheme which, as noted above, has several wards with poor electoral equality and which does not address the concerns expressed by residents of Silksworth. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations.

55 We gave careful consideration to the submissions which objected to the use of Vilette Road as a boundary between our proposed Central and Grangetown wards on the grounds that this would allegedly harm community representation in a deprived area and even impede the work of local charities and community organisations. However, this was by no means a unanimous view, and we also received submissions in support of the boundary. For example, one resident said: 'People living on St Leonard Street and the adjacent "long streets" are split between whether they say they live in Grangetown or Hendon. As there is no clear or obvious boundary to separate Hendon and Grangetown, I agree with the proposals to have Vilette Road as the boundary. It is an obvious and clear boundary that people will recognise.'

56 Another resident said: 'I support Vilette Road as being the boundary between the Grangetown and Central Ward. It is an obvious boundary that is easy to explain and point to, which is not the case with roads further north like Gray Road or Mowbray Road. Local people recognise that everything north of Vilette Road is classed as Hendon, so it would make sense for this to be a ward boundary.' In addition, Councillor Ciaran Morrissey said: 'Vilette Road is the only realistic boundary to separate the Grangetown and Hendon areas. There is no hard and fast boundary, with many people at the middle and southern ends of Canon Cockin Street, St Leonard Street, Cario Street, Hastings Street and Percy Terrace saying that they live in Grangetown.'

57 We therefore concluded that drawing the boundary between Central and Grangetown wards along Vilette Road offered the best balance of our statutory criteria for the area as including the 'long roads' in a ward with the rest of Hendon

would necessitate a warding pattern which would not reflect the evidence we have received for this and adjoining areas.

58 In the interests of creating good electoral equality in the neighbouring Grangetown ward, we have added the streets between Belvedere Road, Stockton Road, Thornhill Crescent and Tunstall Road to our proposed Central ward, with the properties on Tunstall Road itself in Barnes & Thornhill ward. This results in an electoral variance for the ward of 10%. On the basis of suggestions made by councillors Niall Hodson and Julia Potts, we have decided to rename the ward Deptford & Hendon.

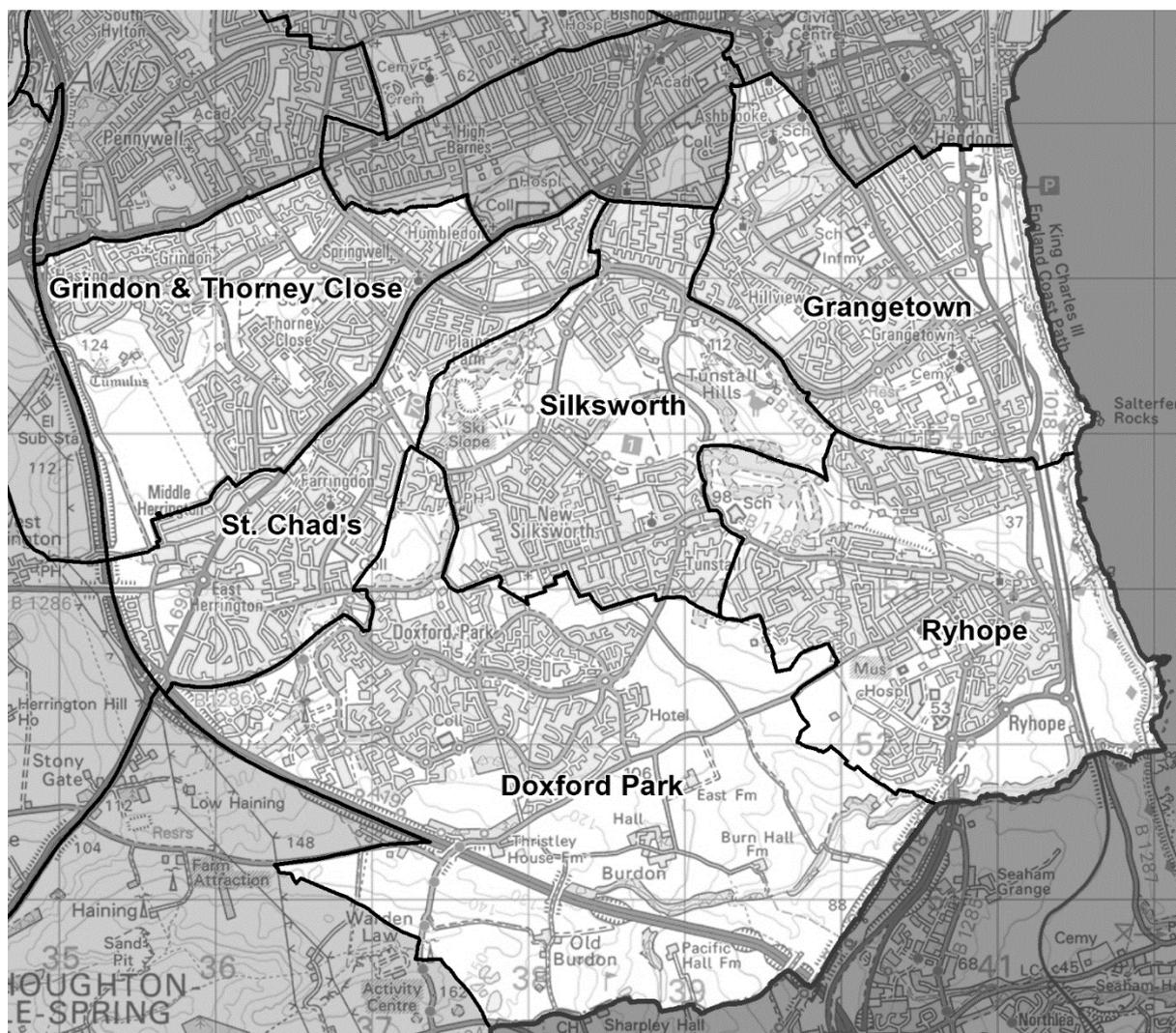
Fulwell, Roker and Southwick

59 We received 70 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for these wards, the majority of which were critical of the boundary between Fulwell and Southwick being drawn down the railway, rather than Newcastle Road as at present. Residents, most of whom live in the streets between the two boundaries, said they very strongly identified with Fulwell and had no connection with Southwick, making use of Fulwell's amenities, such as schools, doctors surgeries, shops and the library. This view was supported by Councillors Malcolm Bond and Peter Walton, who with the Liberal Democrats recommended including the area in Fulwell ward. While this proposal would have caused a -16% variance in Southwick in our draft recommendations, the inclusion of Marley Pots in the ward now allows the transfer of this area to Fulwell, with a -3% electoral variance in Southwick. We have therefore adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations.

60 The Liberal Democrats also proposed adjusting the boundary between Fulwell and Roker northwards. This was ostensibly to improve electoral equality in Fulwell ward following the adjustment of the western boundary to Newcastle Road. We also received submissions from residents arguing the same from a community identity perspective, on the basis that Roker United Reformed Church and Roker Park are on the boundary of the wards proposed in our draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrat scheme proposed drawing the boundary along Longfield Road, to the rear of Primrose Crescent, Fulwell Road, Browne Road, Claremont Road and Peareth Road.

61 We were receptive to including this proposal in our new draft recommendations, as it offered good electoral equality in both wards; -6% in Roker and 5% in Fulwell. However, as accessing the allotments off Longfield Road and the houses on Rushcliffe and Primrose Precinct would require crossing a ward boundary, we considered that the boundary should instead be drawn behind the allotments and the rear of the houses on the north side of Rushcliffe. We have also included Christal Terrace, Coley Terrace, Dale Terrace and Elvington Street in Fulwell ward, as these are linked with Dent Street, Wingrove Avenue and Annie Street, respectively. This improves electoral equality further, to 0% in Fulwell and -1% in Roker.

South Sunderland



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Doxford Park	3	3%
Grangetown	3	10%
Grindon & Thorney Close	3	5%
Ryhope	3	4%
Silksworth	3	4%
St. Chad's	3	6%

Grangetown and Ryhope

62 We received 70 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area, the majority of which were critical of our proposal to divide the Hollycarrside area between the two wards. Residents made clear on the one hand that they did want the area to be divided and, on the other, that Hollycarrside is an indivisible part of the Ryhope pit village which did not belong in Grangetown. This was supported by Ryhope Community Spirit, which pointed out that children in Hollycarrside attend

school and youth groups in Ryhope. This position was also supported by Labour, which proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing Ryhope ward south of Toll Bar Road, with an electoral variance of -7%. The Conservatives also united Hollycarrside, albeit in Grangetown ward, while the Council's submission advised it to be included in one or the other but not divided.

63 The Conservatives' addition of Hollycarrside to our draft Grangetown ward creates a 10% variance in that ward and -10% in Ryhope. As mentioned above, Labour proposed a Ryhope ward with Hollycarrside with a variance of -7%; however, this borders a Hendon & Grangetown ward with a variance of 12%. The boundaries of this proposed ward are Labour's proposed Central ward to the north, Stockton Road and Ryhope Road to the west, The Cedars, Victoria Avenue West and the rear of Westheath Avenue to the south-west, Toll Bar Road to the south and the sea to the east. However, apart from presenting poor electoral equality, we also consider the south-western boundary to lack clarity and would likely prove confusing for residents.

64 We have therefore made alterations to the wards we proposed in our draft recommendations based on the responses received during consultation. We have included Hollycarrside in Ryhope ward while also transferring the area of the ward between Burdon Road, Paddock Lane, Tunstall Bank and Eltham Road to our proposed Silksworth ward. This results in a ward with an electoral variance of 4%. Likewise, as well as removing Hollycarrside from Grangetown ward, we have added the area to north between Belvedere Road, Tunstall Road, Essen Way and Ryhope Road. This results in a variance of 10%. We have included this area of our previously proposed Tunstall & Humbledon ward in Grangetown as part of our general re-warding of the area to accommodate local feedback on Silksworth and Hollycarrside. In doing so we believe we have made use of main roads to produce clear boundaries for the ward, but we would be particularly interested to hear from residents of this area about the proposals.

Doxford Park and Silksworth

65 We received 40 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area, the majority of which were critical of our proposed Farrington & Silksworth ward, which omitted the streets south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road. As with Ryhope and Hollycarrside, residents made clear that Silksworth is a tight-knit former pit village with a strong sense of identity and shared community amenities.

66 The Liberal Democrats proposed drawing the eastern boundary of the ward down the centre of Burdon Road. However, this created a ward with an electoral variance of 11%, and also does not take account of the Hollycarrside area being added in its entirety to neighbouring Ryhope ward. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations.

67 The Labour scheme did not include the southern part of Silksworth in its proposed Silksworth ward. Instead, the existing ward, minus the area south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road, gained the area of Farringdon between Durham Road, North Moor Lane/Silksworth Lane, Avalon Road, Ashdown Road, Anthony Road and the rear of Aberdare Road. However, this produces an electoral variance of 12%, and we consider the ward to lack clear boundaries in the Farringdon area. The scheme also includes the streets off Tunstall Bank either side of Eltham Road in Doxford ward, resulting in a variance of 25%. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations.

68 We have therefore proposed a Silksworth ward with the addition of Tunstall to the south-east. To the north the ward also includes the area between Essen Way, Tunstall Road, Queen Alexandra Road and the rear of Cranbrook, Bede Brook and Frinton Park. This will result in a ward with a forecast electoral variance of 4%. When we visited the area on our tour of Sunderland, we acknowledged that Essen Way would have provided an ideal northern boundary for the Silksworth ward and that this would result in an acceptable variance of -9% for the ward. However, it is not possible to include this area in any of the surrounding wards, due to their relatively high variances. We therefore feel we have little choice but to include the area in Silksworth ward but would be particularly interested to hear residents' views about this proposal.

69 The Council, Conservative and Liberal Democrat submissions recommended including the sports complex off Silksworth Lane in our previously proposed Tunstall & Humbledon ward, as the proposed boundaries placed the Sainsbury's supermarket in Farringdon & Silksworth ward and the Sainsbury's petrol station in Tunstall & Humbledon. This is not an issue in our new draft recommendations, as the entire site is in within our proposed Silksworth ward.

70 Our proposed Doxford Park ward is similar to the proposed Doxford ward from our draft recommendations, minus the area of Silksworth south of Silksworth Terrace/Tunstall Village Road and with the addition of the Lakeside area between Silksworth Lane and North Moor Lane. On our tour of Sunderland we noted that this area would ideally form part of our proposed St. Chad's ward. However, this would create a variance of 18% in St. Chad's. We also noted, however, that the area is connected to the rest of the Doxford Park ward by Silksworth Lane. The name 'Doxford Park' was proposed in the Council and Liberal Democrat submissions, which argued that 'Doxford' is not the name of a place but that 'Doxford Park' is used to refer to housing in the area as well an actual park. We have therefore adopted this name in our new draft recommendations.

Grindon & Thorney Close and St. Chad's

71 We received a variety of views on whether East Herrington and Middle Herrington should be included in the same ward as New Herrington and West

Herrington, as in our draft recommendations, separated as they are by the A19 dual carriageway. The schemes submitted by Labour and Councillor Melville Speding, for example, excluded East Herrington and Middle Herrington from their warding patterns in the Coalfield area.

72 One resident wrote to us to say: 'In past boundary reviews, I'm sure from memory that community ties were always considered with some importance and also a recognition of the natural A19 boundary which separates New & West Herrington from East & Middle Herrington, areas of Sunderland which have never had any commonality. The separation is significant by some distance of open farm land on either side of the B1286.'

73 Likewise, Shiney Row Labour Party said: 'The former mining communities of New and West Herrington have very little in common with East and Middle Herrington which, as part of the old Borough of Sunderland has a more urban identity. Furthermore the two areas are physically separated by almost a mile of swathes of farming and green open space on both sides of the B1286. The major road A19 also separates the areas and former boundary changes have always taken this into account, probably with good reason. The only transport link between the two areas is the B road, B1286.'

74 However, Councillor Niall Hodson took an opposing view: 'People living in this area regularly travel between East and West Herrington – the A19 is not an impassable boundary, as there are a number of easily driveable and walkable routes across it. Residents of East Herrington for example will often walk over to the pubs (the Stackyard and the Stables) in West Herrington, or make their way to Herrington Country Park for exercise and recreation.'

75 Our initial draft recommendations included East Herrington and Middle Herrington in a single 'Herrington' ward with New Herrington and West Herrington. Including the former in a ward east of the A19 would not have been possible in this warding pattern, as adding the area to Farrington & Silksworth ward would have increased its electoral variance to 17%, for example. However, with our re-warding of the Sunderland city area to accommodate concerns about Hollycarrside and Silksworth, this became a possibility.

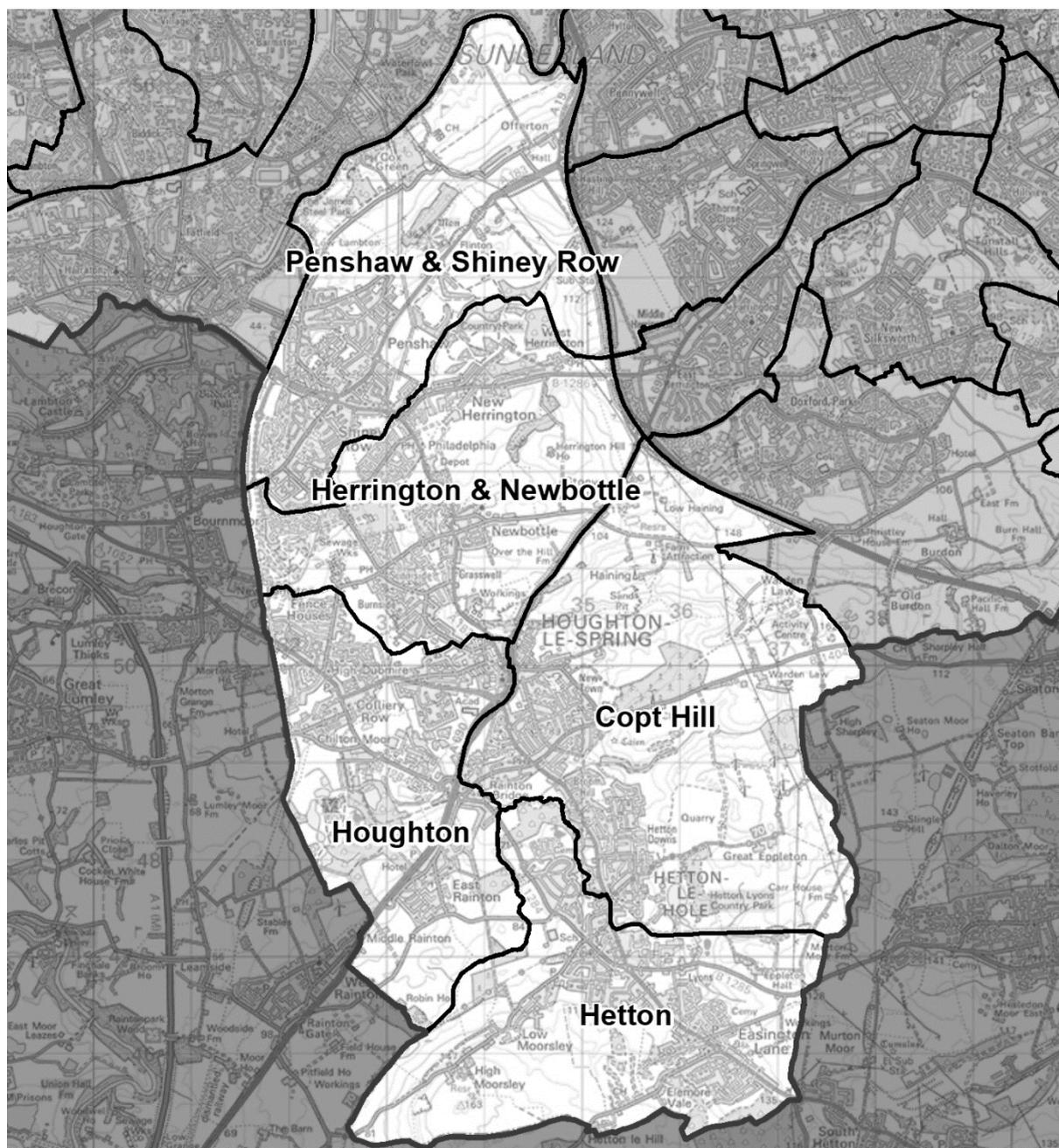
76 The Council, Conservative and Liberal Democrat schemes stuck to our draft recommendations in this area, while Labour again proposed something different. Their Thorney Hill ward comprised Thorney Close and Springwell and the remainder of the existing St. Chad's ward, west of their proposed Silksworth ward. This proposed ward has good electoral equality with a forecast variance of 2% but, as mentioned previously, we received a considerable number of submissions from residents of Sandhill ward asking that the estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Thorney Close and Springwell not be divided between wards. Furthermore, the ward is

surrounded by others with poor electoral equality – 12% in Silksworth, 19% in Broadway and 25% in Doxford. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our new draft recommendations.

77 As mentioned previously, we were persuaded by the high volume of support for our proposed Sandhill ward – some 50 submissions – that Grindon, Hastings Hill, Thorney Close and Springwell should remain together. However, in order to accommodate changes made elsewhere in our warding pattern, we have added Shrewsbury Crescent, Shaftesbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue to the ward. As this was not locally proposed, we would be interested to hear from residents of both areas about the change.

78 With East Herrington and Middle Herrington no longer forming part of a Coalfield ward in our new draft recommendations, we are proposing a modified form of the existing St. Chad's ward to include these two areas, as well as Farringdon, Plains Farm and Humbledon Hill. While this produces a somewhat elongated shape to the ward, the A690 Durham Road acts as a 'spine', running from one end of the ward to the other. While this is the only road link between the areas either side of North Moor Lane, we observed on our tour of Sunderland that the two areas did not appear disconnected and are also linked by foot via North Moor Road and Primate Road. Nonetheless, as this proposal was not locally proposed, we would be particularly interested to hear from local residents about our recommendations in this area.

Coalfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Copt Hill	3	-10%
Herrington & Newbottle	3	-8%
Hetton	3	-10%
Houghton	3	-5%
Penshaw & Shiney Row	3	2%

Penshaw & Shiney Row

79 Our proposals for the Coalfield area of the City are defined by our exclusion of East Herrington and Middle Herrington, which has necessitated a redrawing of all ward boundaries in the area. Because of this, we have based our new draft recommendations on the schemes submitted by Labour and Councillor Melville Speding, with minor modifications. The Council, Conservative and Liberal Democrat submissions had generally supported our draft recommendations in the area. The Council's submission recommended only that Shiney Row ward be renamed 'Penshaw & Shiney Row', while the Conservative submission also suggested this, as well as renaming Houghton North 'Burnside & Fencehouses' and Houghton South & Hetton Downs 'East Rainton & Hetton Downs'.

80 The schemes from Labour and Councillor Speding extended the boundary of our proposed Shiney Row ward southward from Chester Road to Herrington Burn, thus including the planned housing development on land adjacent to Herrington Country Park, off Chislehurst Road. The Labour scheme maintained the southern boundary of our draft ward along Herrington Burn, thus including Elba Park (the former Lambton Coke Works plant), while Councillor Speding proposed maintaining the existing boundary between this site and the rest of the ward. Both schemes result in a 2% electoral variance for the ward and a -8% variance for the proposed Newbottle/Herrington & Newbottle ward.

81 On our tour of Sunderland we noted that the housing at Elba Park did not appear to be closely connected to the rest of the ward, being accessible only via the roundabouts linking Chester Road with Ravensworth Park. As the development is similarly accessible to the nearby housing in the proposed Newbottle/Herrington & Newbottle wards via Blind Lane, we have chosen to include the development in the latter in the interests of greater electoral equality.

82 We received submissions from the Shiney Row Branch Labour Party and a resident which argued that West Herrington and New Herrington were integral parts of the Shiney Row community, having being united around the former open-cast mining activities in the area and the subsequent regeneration efforts once this ceased. Both suggested drawing the southern boundary of the ward down Golf Course Road in order to accommodate their inclusion. However, we visited the area on our tour of Sunderland, and considered Golf Course Road to be an unclear boundary, being a fairly narrow road and uniting housing on Bourn Lea, Ross Lea, Bowes Lea and Briar Close. It was our conclusion that community identity would be less served by dividing this community than by excluding New Herrington and West Herrington in their entirety from the ward. We have therefore adopted Councillor Speding's proposal for Shiney Row ward, as well as the Council's and the Conservatives' proposed name of Penshaw & Shiney Row, to better represent the communities living in the ward.

Herrington & Newbottle

83 The Newbottle and Herrington & Newbottle wards proposed by Labour and Councillor Speding, respectively, include the communities of New Herrington, West Herrington, Philadelphia, Newbottle, Grasswell and Burnside. Councillor Speding's proposal used the A690 as its eastern boundary while the Labour proposal used the boundary of polling district C06, a line stretching from the A690 to the boundary of Doxford ward, to include High Haining. As discussed above, Councillor Speding's proposals also include Elba Park. On our tour of the area we considered that the A690 provided a clearer boundary, and that the name 'Herrington & Newbottle' was more representative of the community. Therefore, we have adopted Councillor Speding's proposals in our new draft recommendations.

Copt Hill and Hetton

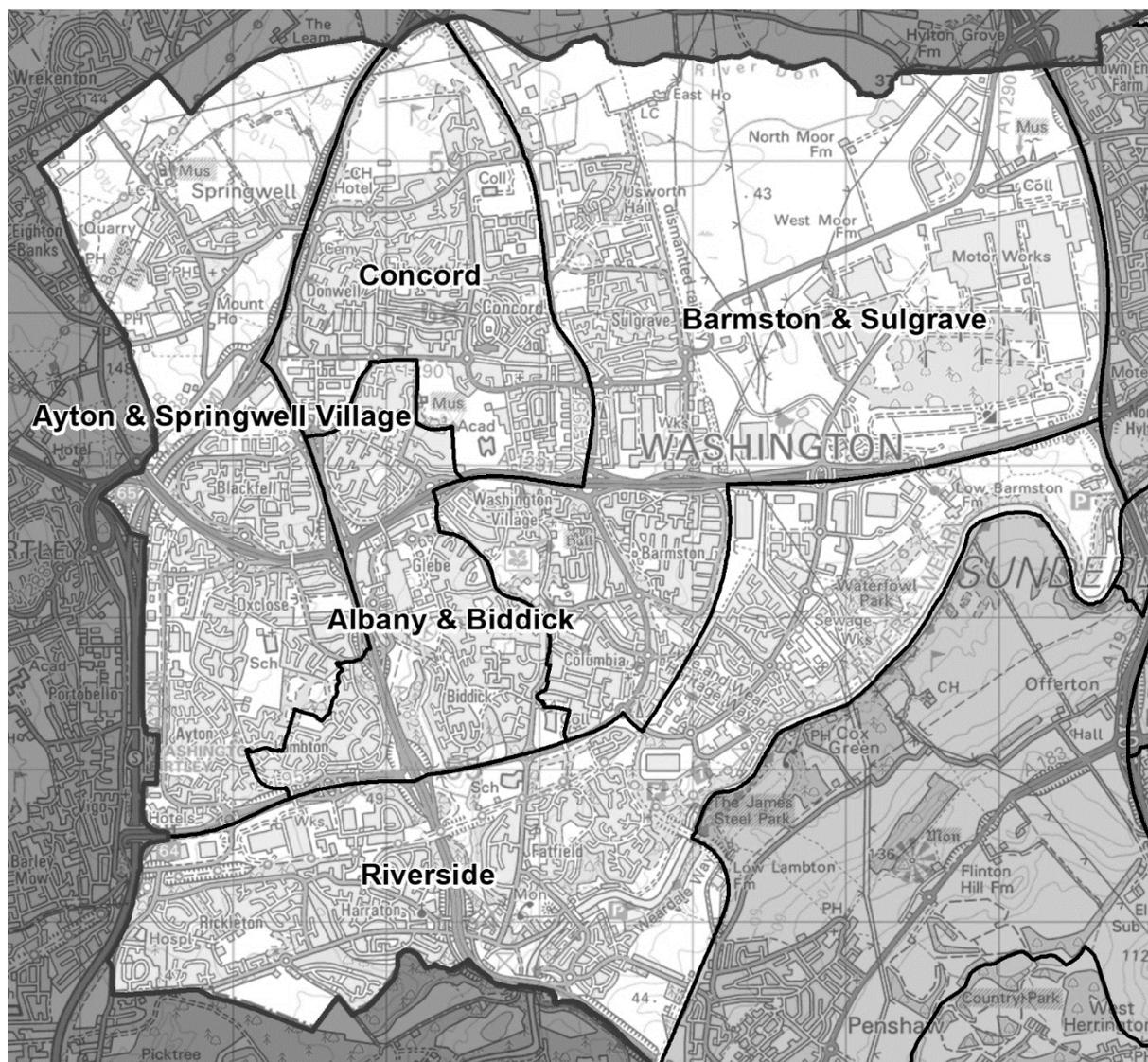
84 The schemes proposed by Labour and Councillor Speding in this area were also very similar, differing only in the aforementioned boundary along either the A690 or polling district C06. The proposed Copt Hill ward is similar to the existing ward, albeit with a truncated northern boundary and an extended southern boundary with Hetton ward down Station Road as far as the allotments and along the footpath to the City boundary. However, these proposals result in a -12% electoral variance for Copt Hill and -8% for Hetton. The proposed Hetton ward is similar to that in our draft recommendations but with the differing boundary with Copt Hill described above. To address this poor electoral equality, we have adjusted the boundary between the proposed Copt Hill and Hetton wards so that it follows Hetton Burn as far as the rear of the houses on Woodlea Close, after which the boundary rejoins Houghton Road. This results in a -10% variance for Copt Hill and -10% for Hetton.

85 We received a submission from Hetton Town Council on the subject of parish warding arrangements, noting that the electorate of Moorsley parish ward would be relatively low as a result of its detachment from East Rainton, at about 320 electors. The Town Council wrote to inform us that Sunderland City Council had recently approved plans for a housing development for 82 dwellings at Coal Bank Farm which would help increase this figure. While 320 electors is well within what we would consider to be a viable parish ward, we are grateful to Hetton Town Council for informing us of this development.

Houghton

86 The Houghton ward proposed by Labour and Councillor Speding is comprised of the East Rainton parish ward with the addition of Chilton Moor, Fence Houses, High Dubmire and the area of Houghton-le-Spring between Rainton Burn, the A690 and Moorsburn, Leyburn Grove and Houghtonside. This ward has a forecast electoral variance of -5%.

Washington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Albany & Biddick	3	-4%
Ayton & Springwell Village	3	0%
Barmston & Sulgrave	3	-2%
Concord	3	-6%
Riverside	3	2%

Albany & Biddick, Ayton & Springwell Village, Barmstone & Sulgrave, Concord and Riverside

87 We received eight submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Washington. These included submissions from the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats were generally supportive of our draft recommendations but proposed renaming the wards to include the local villages rather than using compass points ('Washington Central',

Washington East', etc.).

88 This was supported by a number of residents, one of whom remarked that what was currently Washington East would become Washington West, which could cause confusion. Two other residents commented that our proposed Washington South ward included an area not considered to be part of Washington, on the other side of the River Wear, with one agreeing with the Conservatives' proposal to rename it Riverside. Another resident noted that 'Central' is usually taken to refer to the Sunderland Central constituency and should therefore not be used to name a Washington ward.

89 The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats agreed on renaming Washington East 'Barmston & Sulgrave' but differed on the other wards. For example, the Liberal Democrats proposed renaming Washington South 'Fatfield & Rickleton'. For Washington Central, the Conservatives proposed 'Washington Town Centre' while the Liberal Democrats proposed 'Albany & Biddick'. In Washington West the Conservatives proposed 'Ayton & Springwell Village' while the Liberal Democrats proposed 'Oxclose & Springwell Village'. In Washington North the Conservatives proposed 'Albany & Usworth' while the Liberal Democrats proposed 'Concord'.

90 Labour did not support our draft recommendations for Washington and instead recommended we adopt their initial proposals from the previous round of consultation which made minor adjustments to the existing boundaries. However, as mentioned in our draft recommendations report, we considered the scheme proposed by the Liberal Democrats at that time as offering much stronger boundaries which better represented the communities living within them. We have therefore not adopted Labour's proposals in our new draft recommendations.

91 We are proposing a minor amendment to our draft recommendations. When touring the area we noted that Fatfield Road narrowed considerably between Fountains Close and Parkway which made a boundary down the middle of the road less suitable. We therefore decided to include both sides of the road in Washington Central ward between these points. As we also decided to rename Washington Central 'Albany & Biddick', we have also included Biddick Academy in the ward.

92 For naming the wards we have adopted a mix of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat proposals. In Washington South we agreed with the Conservatives' proposal of 'Riverside', and noted this was supported by a resident, as the River Wear runs through the ward and separates Washington from Houghton, thereby representing both communities. With regards to Washington Central, we noted Labour's point that Washington Village is considered to be a focal point of the centre of Washington, and therefore considered 'Albany & Biddick' to be more appropriate than 'Washington Town Centre', which could also be considered too long.

93 For Washington West we chose the Conservatives' proposal of 'Ayton & Springwell Village' over the Liberal Democrats' 'Oxclose & Springwell Village', though we would be interested to hear from residents about which they believe to be most representative of their communities. For Washington North we chose the Liberal Democrats' proposal of 'Concord' over the Conservatives' 'Albany & Usworth', as it appeared to us that most if not all of Albany was within Washington Central ward, which we have renamed Albany & Biddick.

Conclusions

94 The table below shows the impact of our new draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2023 and 2029 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	New draft recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	75	75
Number of electoral wards	25	25
Average number of electors per councillor	2,760	2,949
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

New draft recommendations

Sunderland City Council should be made up of 75 councillors serving 25 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Sunderland City Council. You can also view our new draft recommendations for Sunderland City Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews

Parish electoral arrangements

95 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

96 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Sunderland City Council has powers under the Local Government and Public

Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

97 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hetton.

98 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hetton parish.

New draft recommendations

Hetton Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Easington Lane	6
East Rainton	2
Hetton Downs	4
Hetton-le-Hole	8
Moorsley	1

Have your say

99 The Commission has an open mind about its new draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole City or just a part of it.

100 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Sunderland City Council, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

101 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews

102 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Sunderland)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

103 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Sunderland City Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local 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

104 A good pattern of wards 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

105 Electoral equality:

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

106 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- 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?

107 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

108 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral 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 will be placed on deposit at our offices in Westminster (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.

109 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 postal or email addresses, 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.

110 In the light of representations received, we will review our new draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the new draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

111 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which

brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Sunderland City Council in 2026.

Equalities

112 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

New draft recommendations for Sunderland City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Albany & Biddick	3	8,211	2,737	-1%	8,485	2,828	-4%
2	Ayton & Springwell Village	3	8,542	2,847	3%	8,885	2,962	0%
3	Barmston & Sulgrave	3	8,186	2,729	-1%	8,661	2,887	-2%
4	Barnes & Thornhill	3	9,345	3,115	13%	9,540	3,180	8%
5	Concord	3	7,569	2,523	-9%	8,289	2,763	-6%
6	Copt Hill	3	7,669	2,556	-7%	7,963	2,654	-10%
7	Deptford & Hendon	3	8,580	2,860	4%	9,769	3,256	10%
8	Doxford Park	3	7,201	2,400	-13%	9,151	3,050	3%
9	Fulwell	3	8,503	2,834	3%	8,831	2,944	0%
10	Grangetown	3	9,547	3,182	15%	9,719	3,240	10%
11	Grindon & Thorney Close	3	9,026	3,009	9%	9,247	3,082	5%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Herrington & Newbottle	3	7,339	2,446	-11%	8,097	2,699	-8%
13	Hetton	3	7,126	2,375	-14%	7,933	2,644	-10%
14	Houghton	3	7,640	2,547	-8%	8,403	2,801	-5%
15	Hylton Castle	3	8,049	2,683	-3%	8,261	2,754	-7%
16	Pallion & Ford	3	9,221	3,074	11%	9,711	3,237	10%
17	Pennywell & South Hylton	3	8,327	2,776	1%	8,796	2,932	-1%
18	Penshaw & Shiney Row	3	8,218	2,739	-1%	9,018	3,006	2%
19	Redhouse	3	7,903	2,634	-5%	8,242	2,747	-7%
20	Riverside	3	8,818	2,939	7%	9,062	3,021	2%
21	Roker	3	8,573	2,858	4%	8,766	2,922	-1%
22	Ryhope	3	8,057	2,686	-3%	9,171	3,057	4%
23	Silksworth	3	8,737	2,912	6%	9,245	3,082	4%
24	Southwick	3	7,555	2,518	-9%	8,553	2,851	-3%
25	St. Chad's	3	9,029	3,010	9%	9,406	3,135	6%

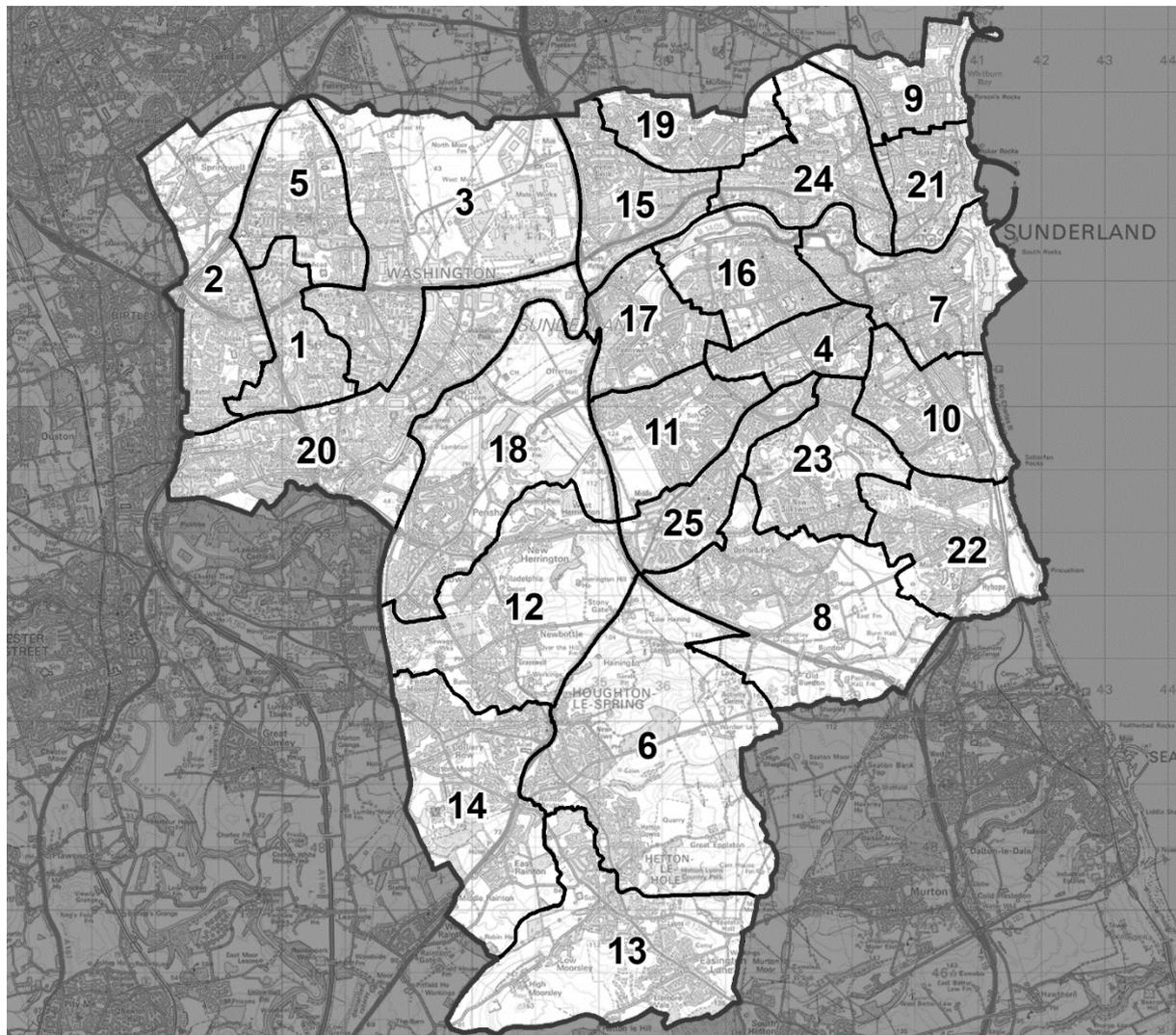
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	75	206,971	–	–	221,204	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,760	–	–	2,949	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Sunderland City Council.

Note: The ‘variance from average’ column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the City. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Albany & Biddick
2	Ayton & Springwell Village
3	Barmston & Sulgrave
4	Barnes & Thornhill
5	Concord
6	Copt Hill
7	Deptford & Hendon
8	Doxford Park
9	Fulwell
10	Grangetown
11	Grindon & Thorney Close
12	Herrington & Newbottle

13	Hetton
14	Houghton
15	Hylton Castle
16	Pallion & Ford
17	Pennywell & South Hylton
18	Penshaw & Shiney Row
19	Redhouse
20	Riverside
21	Roker
22	Ryhope
23	Silksworth
24	Southwick
25	St. Chad's

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sunderland

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sunderland

Local Authority

- Sunderland City Council

Political Groups

- Co-operative Party (Sunderland Branch)*
- Redhill Ward Labour Party*
- Shiney Row Branch Labour Party
- Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party
- Sunderland Conservative Party
- Sunderland Labour Group*
- Sunderland Liberal Democrats
- Washington & Gateshead South Constituency Labour Party

*Included in a single submission

Councillors

- Councillor M. Bond (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor K. Brown (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Crosby (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor P. Edgeworth (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor H. Fagan (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor P. Gibson (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Haswell (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor N. Hodson (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor J. Laverick (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Mordey (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor C. Morrissey (Sunderland City Council)*
- Councillor A. Mullen (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor S. O'Brien (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Speding (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor J. Potts (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor P. Tye (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor P. Walton (Sunderland City Council)

- Councillor A. Wood (Sunderland City Council)

*Made two submissions

Local Organisations

- Barnes Residents' Association
- Friends of Silksworth Park
- Ryhope Community Spirit
- Silksworth Residents' Association
- Youth Almighty Project

Parish and Town Councils

- Hetton Town Council

Local Residents

- 242 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE