

# West Auckland Parish Council

Sharon Proud, Clerk to the Council



4 July 2023

Dear Boundary Commission Team

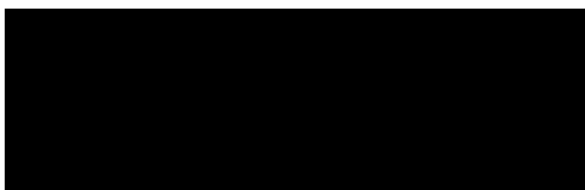
**RE: West Auckland Electoral Division, Durham County Council.**

The Parish Council wish to express strong concerns about your proposals for the three-seat Evenwood and Cockfield Ward as it is considered far too large an area with too many towns and villages to cover effectively; West Auckland and the surrounding villages have diverse needs and reduction to a one-seat ward here would spread the already stretched resource even thinner, making it very difficult for anyone tasked with such a remit to provide effective County Council representation and support to the areas. Our communities are better served by two local elected County Councillors who understand the needs, problems and ambitions of the area. The local county councillors have worked for many years and built up really good working relationships and mutual respect with various groups and organisations in the area; that vital strength and support network would be lost with your proposal for one-seat to serve a complex electorate with pockets of deprivation.

The Parish Council believes a counter proposal for a two-seat West Auckland Ward keeps local communities together and fits better with the existing arrangements. The Parish Council see no need to benefit for this change, and strongly support the proposal to maintain a two-seat West Auckland Electoral Division.

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed **two-seat West Auckland Ward**.

Yours faithfully



Sharon Proud  
Clerk to West Auckland Parish Council

cc Cllr George Smith  
Cllr Robert Yorke