

Sunderland

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Comment text:

Good evening,

Please find attached a submission from the Liberal Democrats in Sunderland in response to the consultation on proposals.

If you require anything further or in a different format please let me know.

Best wishes, Paul

Paul Edgeworth

Attached Documents:

- Sunderland LGBCE - Consultation on Proposals - Liberal Democrats response final version.pdf

Warding arrangements in the Sunderland City Council area Consultation on proposals

Wearside Liberal Democrats submission December 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 This is a joint submission from the Liberal Democrats group of councillors on Sunderland City Council and from the Wearside Liberal Democrats local party which is coterminous with the boundaries of the city of Sunderland metropolitan borough council.

1.2 For any further information or queries please contact Paul Edgeworth on cllr.paul.edgeworth@sunderland.gov.uk or 07435753950.

2. Summary

2.1 The Liberal Democrats think that the Commission's proposals for Sunderland strike a good balance between achieving electoral equality, representing coherent communities and allowing for effective representation and local government on Wearside.

2.2 We would be happy for the proposals to be adopted as final recommendations, subject to some minor changes outlined below.

3. Approach

3.1 Rather than repeat the detailed rationales and arguments made for proposed wards in our initial submission, where we agree with a proposal in the Commission's draft recommendations we have stated this, and refer back to the reasons we detailed in our initial submission.

4. North-West Sunderland proposals:

4.1 Counter-proposal for Pennywell, Pallion, Barnes & Thornhill wards:

4.1.1 We support the Commission's proposed Pennywell, Pallion and Barnes & Thornhill wards and would be happy to accept them.

4.1.2 However, Liberal Democrat councillors would like to suggest some slight amendments to the boundaries between these three wards that would make more sense to local people and that would unite coherent communities rather than splitting them.

4.1.3 We include here a counter-proposal which keeps all areas identifying as Barnes in one ward; that would include all of Hylton Lane Estate in one ward; and that would put the entirety of Ford into one ward rather than being split across two.

4.1.4 Whilst this new border may not be as smooth as the initial proposal utilising Holborn Road and Front Road as a border, we believe that this counter-proposal would better reflect community interests and coherent communities; and provide better representation and efficient local government by reducing the number of estates and communities that are split across different wards.

4.1.5 In contrast to many local authorities where different communities and suburbs have fluid boundaries and borders, many parts of Sunderland - including in this area - have clear and hard boundaries between different estates and communities that are recognised locally. For example, post-war social housing estates in Sunderland all have streets that begin with the same letter. All streets in Ford begin with the letter 'F', all streets in Hylton Lane Estate begin with the letter 'H' and all streets in Pennywell begin with the letter 'P'.

4.1.6 This counter-proposal respects where the estates of Hylton Lane, Pennywell and Ford start and end. Whilst at first glance it may not be as clear as using the main road as a boundary, this counter-proposal would be clearly understood by local people who identify with a particular estate based on what letter of the alphabet their street begins with.

4.1.7 This is the same principle that the Commission has understandably followed in its proposals for the boundary between Herrington Ward and Farringdon & Silksworth Ward (the boundary between Farringdon and East Herrington which sticks to the change in housing type and street names beginning with 'A' being identifiably Farringdon), the boundary between Sandhill Ward and Herrington Ward (the boundary between Thorney Close and East Herrington sticks to the change in housing type and streets with 'T' being identifiably Thorney Close). We believe that this principle should also be applied here when it comes to Ford, Hylton Lane Estate and Barnes.

4.1.8 This counter-proposal provides clear and identifiable boundaries that local people will respect and understand instead of dividing Ford Estate and Hylton Lane Estate across two wards; and also has the benefit of making sure all people living in Barnes are in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward.

4.1.9 As referenced in section 6.6 of this submission, we are also proposing an amendment to the boundary between Barnes & Thornhill and Tunstall & Humbleton Wards so that Barnes Park is united in one ward instead of being split across two, and so that all parts of Ashbrooke are united in the Tunstall and Humbleton Ward. We have expanded on the proposed revision to the border between these wards in section 6.6.

4.1.10 A map of our proposals is available here:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1SqWfavkh9lhmb-1Yxdd875MUjffwV_Q&usp=sharing

4.1.11 We have included full rationales and details for these revised wards in Appendices 1-3.

4.2 Hylton Castle

4.2.1 We agree with the Commission's proposal for a Hylton Castle Ward and are happy to accept the current boundary which includes the Canterbury Road and Cranleigh Road areas to ensure that the entire Hylton Castle estate is in one ward.

4.2.2 We feel that it is a shame that the Town End Farm estate is split across two wards. Whilst using Downhill Lane as a boundary between Town End Farm and Downhill makes the most sense in terms of respecting community boundaries, we appreciate that this would lead to unacceptable levels of electoral inequality and so we are happy to endorse the Commission's proposals for the boundary between Redhouse and Hylton Castle wards using Bedale Crescent, Bayswater Avenue, Blackwood Road and Baxter Road.

4.3 Redhouse

4.3.1 Liberal Democrats would be happy with the proposed Redhouse Ward. As outlined in section 4.2.2, we accept the reasons for splitting Town End Farm between two wards, and as outlined in section 9.1.1 we would oppose 'Redhill' or 'St Cuthberts' being used in a ward name for this area.

5. North-East Sunderland proposals

5.1 Counter-proposal for Fulwell and Roker Wards

5.1.1 We support the Commission's proposed Fulwell and Roker wards and would be happy to accept them.

5.1.2 However, Liberal Democrat councillors have received feedback from residents living in the Cairns Road, Coniston Avenue, Kirkstone Avenue and surrounding streets between Newcastle Road and the railway line that they feel that they live in Fulwell and would prefer to be included in a Fulwell Ward rather than with Southwick. We would therefore urge the Commission to consider any proposal that includes the Cairns Road, Coniston Avenue and Kirkstone Avenue and surrounds area in the Fulwell Ward.

5.1.3 We include here a counter-proposal which keeps a consistent western border down Newcastle Road, rather than changing between that road and the railway line. Consequently, this requires the southern border between Fulwell and Roker wards to be moved further north in order to balance the number of electors in each ward.

5.1.4 Whilst this new border is not as smooth as the one proposed along Side Cliff Road, we believe it is necessary to allow for a constituent western border along Newcastle Road.

5.1.5 A map of our proposals is available here:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1MW0nb-BfZ3ifUmuPLoZl8gg79zMj2UI&usp=sharing>

5.1.6 We have included full rationales and details for these revised wards in Appendices 4 and 5.

5.1.7 We recognise the problematic impact of this decision may require changing of boundaries in the proposed Southwick, Redhouse and Hylton Castle Wards to avoid one of those wards having more than 10% below the target number of electors in 2029.

5.2 Central

5.2.1 Liberal Democrats endorse the Commission's proposals for the Central Ward, subject to our comments about the name of the ward in section 9.2.2 of our submission which would like to see the ward re-named to 'Deptford and Hendon'.

5.2.2 We reiterate here that Vilette Road is an obvious and identifiable main thoroughfare in the area that would be easy to understand as a boundary between the Grangetown and Central Wards.

5.2.3 Residents living in Hunter Terrace, Manilla Street, Cuba Street, Rowlandson Terrace etc south of Vilette Road refer to themselves as living in Grangetown.

5.2.4 People living in the streets east of the railway line (Percy Terrace, Hastings Street, Cairo Street, St Leonard Street, Canon Cockin Street and Corporation Road) differ on whether they say they live in Hendon or Grangetown, depending on how far down the street you live. However, there is no hard and fast border in these streets between Hendon and Grangetown.

5.2.5 Rather than following the arbitrary and complex-to-understand existing polling district boundaries in this area, or using a small side street like Ashby, St Albans or Tel-el-Kebir Road, we believe it is preferable and easier to understand to have Vilette Road as the ward boundary.

5.2.6 Similarly, moving the ward boundary further north to somewhere like Gray Road or Mowbray Road provides problems of using less busy residential streets as a ward boundary, which wouldn't be an obvious and identifiable boundary in the same way that Vilette Road would.

5.3 Southwick Ward

5.3.1 As referenced in section 5.1.7 we would prefer to see a cleaner, consistent boundary down Newcastle Road between Southwick and Fulwell Wards, in response to community concerns from those living between Newcastle Road and the railway line who wish to be included in Fulwell Ward.

5.3.2 We do not have a view on whether Marley Potts or other parts of the proposed Southwick Ward should be split or transferred between Southwick and Redhouse Wards to ensure that all wards north of the River Wear remain within quota.

5.3.3 However, whilst we recognise that the population in Sunderland north of the river is quite low to justify 5 wards, neither is it practicable to suggest just 4 wards in this area. Similarly, as a principle we think it is important that wards do not cross the River Wear or the A19 in this location.

6. South Sunderland proposals

6.1 Counter-proposal for Doxford and Farringdon & Silksworth Wards

6.1.1 We agree with the Commission's proposals in this area but would like to see some amendments to ensure all streets that are considered as Silksworth are included in the Farringdon & Silksworth Ward.

6.1.2 With regard to Doxford Ward, we agree with the Commission's proposal in this area which keeps communities on either side of Doxford Park Way in the same ward. We believe that the initial proposal from the Conservatives for a 'Burdon and Moorside' ward had major flaws, splitting the communities that see themselves as part of the wider 'Doxford' area either side of the Doxford Park Way spine road; as well as separating the southern part of Ryhope from the rest of that village.

6.1.3 We also agree with the principle of the Commission's improved eastern boundary between Doxford and Ryhope Wards and would like to see this included in the final proposals, with one slight amendment. The Commission's mapping and recommendations do not feature the new Rotary Road (also known as the Doxford-Ryhope link road) which opened earlier in 2023. This means there is now a main road running through the development area bounded by Burdon Lane to the south, Rockcliffe and Headlam to the east, and Bowood Close and Dyrham Close to the north. We believe that Rotary Road provides a clear and identifiable boundary, and that everything to the east of this main arterial route should be in Ryhope Ward rather than Doxford Ward.

6.1.4 However, with regard to the boundary between Doxford and Silksworth Wards, we are presenting a counter proposal to see the streets to the south of Silksworth Terrace/Tunstall Village Road, to the west of Burdon Road and the north of the allotments – which are an integral part of the community and historic village of Silksworth - being included in the Farringdon and Silksworth Ward.

6.1.5 This counter proposal would ensure all streets that are part of Silksworth are included together in the ward of the same name; following an identifiable boundary up Burdon Road; and then utilising the existing ward boundary along Paddock Lane and to the rear of Bracknell Close. The natural settlement gap to the north of Ruswarp Drive and Woburn Drive and to the south of Pembroke Avenue and Orr Avenue also represents a locally understood divide between the community of Silksworth and that of the Doxford Park / Mill Hill area.

6.1.6 We want to make sure that the boundary between Silksworth Road and St Matthew's Field does not impinge on the new Churchfields housing development around Blenheim Close, which should be wholly contained in the Doxford Park Ward instead of being split across two wards.

6.1.7 As referenced in section 6.5.5 of this submission, we are also proposing a slight amendment to the boundary between Farringdon & Silksworth Ward and Tunstall & Humbledon Ward to ensure the Sainsburys retail park area is not split across wards.

6.1.8 As outlined in section 9 of this submission we would like the ward names to be changed from 'Doxford Ward' to 'Doxford Park Ward', and from 'Farringdon and Silksworth Ward' to 'Silksworth and Farringdon Ward'.

6.1.9 A map of our counter proposals in this area is available here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=12DGPAbZ3IHVljEvNcvGf1sEKdApsB1g&usp=sharing>

6.1.10 We have included full rationales and details for these revised wards in Appendices 6 and 7.

6.2 Sandhill Ward:

6.2.1 We totally agree with the Commission's proposals for Sandhill Ward, subject to re-naming to 'Grindon and Thorney Close Ward' (see section 9.2.3 below).

6.2.3 The proposals follow clear, consistent and easy to understand boundaries that unite all of Grindon and Springwell in one ward, together with the neighbouring estates of Thorney Close and Hastings Hill. This proposal would end the confusing existing situation where parts of Grindon and Springwell are in Barnes and St Anne's Wards instead of with the rest of the community.

6.2.4 In paragraph 60 of the report on draft recommendations the Commission references the A183 Chester Road and questions whether this is a strong barrier between communities or is a community hub sharing shops, eateries and pubs.

6.2.3 In relation to the proposed Sandhill/Grindon & Thorney Close ward, we would reiterate that from the A19 to the junction of Chester Road with Grindon Lane at the Grindon Mill this is a busy arterial dual carriageway which is a hard border between the communities of Grindon to the south and Pennywell to the North. We believe that this is an obvious border between communities and does not constitute a road that brings communities together.

6.2.4 Whilst the section of Chester Road between Grindon Lane and Springwell Road does have a variety of shops on either side, we still believe that this is a sensible and easy to understand boundary for separating the proposed Pennywell and Sandhill wards, and that including Glenleigh Drive, Broadstairs Court, the Broadway Estate and both sides of Grindon Lane in one ward improves community cohesion and effective representation by councillors.

6.3 Ryhope Ward

6.3.1 We are in favour of the Commission's proposals for Ryhope Ward which unites the parts of Ryhope that are currently in the Doxford Ward with the rest of the village. We agree with the Commission's proposals for the boundary between Doxford and Ryhope Wards, which improve on Liberal Democrat proposals in the initial consultation.

6.3.2 The Liberal Democrat submission, and subsequent initial proposals from the Commission, suggested that the boundary between Ryhope and Grangetown wards ran through the Hollycarrside estate along Rye View Road, Lynden Road, Fenside Road, effectively splitting the estate in two. We would support proposals to unite Hollycarrside estate wholly within Grangetown Ward or Ryhope Ward assuming both would remain within the quota.

6.4 Grangetown Ward

6.4.1 We support the draft recommendation for a Grangetown Ward which brings together Grangetown and the surrounding areas in one cohesive unit, improving the current warding arrangements in this area; subject to the case made in section 6.4 about uniting all of Hollycarrside in one ward.

6.4.2 As outlined in section 5.2 of this submission, we believe Villette Road to be the most obvious, identifiable and convenient boundary to the north of this ward.

6.5 Tunstall and Humbledon Ward

6.5.1 Liberal Democrats broadly agree with the Commission's proposals for a Tunstall and Humbledon Ward.

6.5.2 We would like to reiterate the importance of having the Plains Farm estate united into one ward rather than it continuing to be split over two wards as it is at present and as has been suggested in other proposals.

6.5.3 As referenced in our counter-proposal for the Barnes and Thornhill Ward, we would suggest a minor amendment to the ward boundary so that the entirety of Barnes Park is represented in one ward. This would make for more effective local government, avoiding the need for grants and projects for Barnes Park to be split across two wards and two sets of councillors. It would also reduce the pressure on ward based budgets in the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward which also contains another major city park in Backhouse Park.

6.5.4 We therefore propose to move the ward boundary with Barnes & Thornhill Ward from the Barnes Burn to the edge of Barnes Park where it meets Bede College, so that the entire Barnes Park is within one ward. This boundary would allow the entire park to be in Barnes & Thornhill Ward, without the inconvenience of having houses on Ettrick Grove and Durham Road that are a part of Humbledon excluded from the Tunstall & Humbledon Ward which would be the case if the ward boundary ran along Ettrick Grove and Durham Road.

6.5.5 Liberal Democrats support amending the ward boundary slightly so that it does not follow the existing boundary between polling districts T04 and T02 as this would have the Sainsbury's retail park split between two wards. We believe it would be more convenient for that entire development to be included in one ward, following local identifiable paths and roads to draw a more recognisable boundary between Tunstall & Humbledon Ward and Farringdon and Silksworth Ward.

6.5.6 We are also presenting a counter-proposal to better reflect communities in the Ashbrooke area by transferring some streets from the proposed Barnes and Thornhill Ward to the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward.

6.5.7 The streets west of Tunstall Road and north of Queen Alexandra Road in the proposed Barnes and Thornhill Ward are an integral part of the community of Ashbrooke, which share community facilities, schools, churches, shops and pubs with the rest of Ashbrooke either side of these two main roads.

6.5.8 These streets are also physically separated from the rest of the Barnes and Thornhill areas by the large grounds of Thornhill and St Mary's schools, which cannot be crossed as there is no public access. We therefore believe it will provide for better community links and more effective representation by councillors if these streets are joined with the rest of Ashbrooke in the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward.

6.5.9 We have some concerns that Tunstall Village is not contained in this ward. Whilst Tunstall Village is geographically separate from other parts of the city referred to as Tunstall which are included in this ward, we would like the Commission to consider whether there may be a more appropriate ward name than 'Tunstall and Humbledon' to avoid confusion – perhaps involving Ashbrooke which is a large part of this ward.

6.5.10 A map of our counter-proposals for Tunstall and Humbledon and Barnes and Thornhill Ward is available here:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1Jvy0PxTi6NTzRqhetpnBMWnz6QYcz_w&usp=sharing

6.5.11 We have included full rationales and details for these revised wards in Appendices 8 and 2.

7. Hetton, Houghton and the Herringtons proposal

7.1 Liberal Democrats fully endorse the Commission's proposals for the Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole and Herringtons area.

7.2 We believe that the Commission's proposed boundary between the Shiney Row and Herrington wards is an improvement to the one proposed in our initial submission.

7.3 Liberal Democrats do not wish to propose any changes to the ward boundaries or ward names in the Houghton, Hetton and Herringtons area, for the reasons outlined in our initial submission.

8. Washington proposals

8.1 Liberal Democrats are pleased with the Commission's proposals in the Washington area, including the proposed change to the boundary between Washington West and Washington Central Ward.

8.2 As per the reasons given in our submission to the initial consultation, we believe that these proposals keep distinct village communities intact and make sense in terms of areas that can be effectively and coherently represented by councillors.

8.3 Liberal Democrats do not wish to propose any changes to the ward boundaries in the Washington area.

8.4 As set out in section 9, we are proposing changes to the ward names in Washington. This is in response to concerns from residents in the town who have expressed a preference for wards to be named after identifiable places rather than compass points.

9. Ward names

9.1 Notes on ward names proposed by the Commission

9.1.1 Redhouse

9.1.1.1 We note in the Conservative submission to the initial consultation that they had proposed a 'Redhill and Marley Pots' ward name.

9.1.1.2 We would like to object to any consideration to the continuation of the 'Redhill' name for a ward covering this area – or for any proposal for a 'St Cuthberts' ward name for this area. Redhill is not a real place and causes confusion as residents do not know what or where Redhill is. We would strongly urge the Commission to stick with the current 'Redhouse' name which is a widely understood and recognised place name. We acknowledge that a ward name cannot reference each of the names in this ward (namely Redhouse, Downhill, Wear View, Witherwack, Marley Potts and Town End Farm). Given Redhouse is by far the biggest estate and is located in the centre of the ward, it would allow people to recognisably identify which ward they live in. This would not be the case with a ward name that is not a real or understood place like 'Redhill' or 'St Cuthberts'.

9.2 Proposed alterations to ward names proposed by the Commission

9.2.1 Following consultation with residents and councillors in all parties, Wearside Liberal Democrats are proposing some alterations to ward names in the Commission's proposals:

9.2.2 'Central' to become 'Deptford and Hendon'

9.2.2.1 We recognise the difficulty in coming up with an easy name that reflects the distinct communities of the city centre, Hendon, the East End, Deptford and parts of Ashbrooke and Millfield that are contained in this ward which is why we had initially proposed 'Central' as a ward name.

9.2.2.2 However, we have concerns that having a 'Central' ward in the 'Central' constituency of Sunderland could cause some confusion. In addition, there is also a proposed Washington Central ward which could cause further confusion between that ward and this one.

9.2.2.3 We also recognise that 'Central' is not an appropriate name given that Sunderland has always been a cross-river city: important neighbourhoods of the city centre, as well as the football stadium, marina, St Peter's university campus, St Peter's Church, the National Glass Centre, are on the north side of the river. Historically, the conurbation was formed by two communities, Bishopwearmouth (south of the river) and Monkwearmouth (north of the river). Local people would not welcome the notion that the centre of the city is entirely south of the river. For this reason, we feel that the 'Central' ward name should be replaced with a name that refers to the communities in the ward.

9.2.2.4 As a result, we would like to propose a change in name to 'Deptford and Hendon'. This represents identifiable areas of the city on either side of the ward. Deptford is an identifiable neighbourhood and is going to see significant housing developments in coming years. We believe this is a suitable name for the western end of this ward, rather than Millfield which is split between this ward and Pallion Ward.

9.2.2.5 We believe that Deptford and Hendon would be a suitable alternative catch-all term for this ward.

9.2.3 'Sandhill' to become 'Grindon and Thorney Close'

9.2.3.1 For the same reasons that we have objected to the continued use of ward names such as 'St Annes' or 'Redhill' that do not represent real places or recognisable names that people have an affinity to or understanding of, we are proposing a change to 'Sandhill' as a ward name.

9.2.3.2 Whilst this is the existing ward name in this area and is named after the Grindon Sandhill landmark (which is also referenced in the Sandhill View school that serves the ward), we believe that 'Grindon and Thorney Close' would be preferable ward name.

9.2.3.3. It would be too cumbersome to include Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close in a ward name. As Grindon and Thorney Close are the biggest population centres in this proposed ward we believe it would be sensible for them both to be represented in the ward name.

9.2.4 'Pennywell' to become 'Pennywell and South Hylton'

9.2.4.1 We would be supportive of this ward being named 'Pennywell and South Hylton'. South Hylton is a distinct community that retains a close knit village feel, and is geographically and culturally separate from the neighbouring Pennywell estate.

9.2.4.2 Liberal Democrats believe that it would be preferable for South Hylton to also be included in the ward name.

9.2.4.3 We appreciate that not all communities in this proposed ward can be referenced in a ward name (i.e. Nookside, Havelock Park etc.) but believe that Pennywell and South Hylton make it easy for residents to identify where the ward is.

This is not the case with the current 'St Anne's Ward' name which alienates residents.

9.2.5 'Doxford' to become 'Doxford Park'

9.2.5.1 The residential area at the heart of this proposed ward is known locally as 'Doxford Park', mirroring the name of an actual park also contained in the ward. In contrast 'Doxford' is the name of a well-known local family and the name of a former shipyard in the city. There is no such place as 'Doxford' and local signs, buses etc. all refer to 'Doxford Park'.

9.2.5.2 We believe that 'Doxford Park' is a preferable name to 'Doxford' as it reflects the name of the area and housing estates that people identify with this part of the city.

9.2.6 'Pallion' to become 'Pallion and Ford'

9.2.6.1 Subject to the counter proposal in section 4.1 of this submission (to include all of Ford in this ward) being accepted, we propose re-naming this ward to Pallion and Ford to represent both communities that are wholly contained within it.

9.2.7 'Farringdon and Silksworth' to become 'Silksworth and Farringdon'

9.2.7.1 We are happy to agree to a proposal from the Labour Group that the names of communities in this ward are reversed to reflect Silksworth being the larger community.

9.2.8 'Shiney Row' to become 'Penshaw and Shiney Row'

9.2.8.1 We are happy to agree to a proposal from the Labour and Conservative Groups that the name of this ward is expanded to include Penshaw.

9.2.9 'Washington Central' to become 'Albany and Biddick'

9.2.9.1 In response to feedback from residents, we would support changing ward names in Washington to reflect identifiable communities in preference to using compass points.

9.2.9.2 We propose that Washington Central is re-named Albany and Biddick.

9.2.10 'Washington East' to become 'Barmston and Sulgrave'

9.2.10.1 We proposed renaming Washington East to Barmston and Sulgrave to represent communities represented in this ward.

9.2.11 'Washington North' to become 'Concord'

9.2.11.1 We believe Concord reflects the largest community in this ward and would be an appropriate name.

9.2.12 ‘Washington South’ to become ‘Fatfield and Rickleton’

9.2.12.1 Fatfield and Rickleton as a name represents communities in the ward and would allow people to better identify and understand this proposed ward compared to the name of ‘Washington South’.

9.2.12.2 The inclusion of Mount Pleasant in this ward requires a name that doesn’t include ‘Washington’. This area has a DH postcode, addresses for this area give Houghton-le-Spring as the post town, and lies south of the River Wear and so isn’t part of Washington. We therefore believe that ‘Washington South’ or any other ward name containing Washington is not appropriate.

9.2.12.3 Given Mount Pleasant is adjacent to Fatfield and shares Fatfield Bridge with the community north of the River Wear, we believe that Fatfield and Rickleton would be a preferable name for this ward and would be one that people on both sides of the river could identify with.

9.2.13 ‘Washington West’ to become ‘Oxclose and Springwell Village’

9.2.13.1 As with other Washington wards, we believe that Oxclose and Springwell Village would reflect the largest communities in this ward.

9.2.13.2 We believe that it is particularly important that ‘Springwell Village’ is included in the ward title to reflect that this village sees itself as being part of Gateshead rather than Washington and would have no affinity to a ‘Washington West’ ward name.

9.2.13.3 We also want the full name of ‘Springwell Village’ to be included in the ward name to differentiate it from Springwell estate in Sunderland, in the proposed Sandhill/Grindon and Thorney Close Ward.

9.3 A note on historical ‘Saint’ ward names

9.3.1 Sunderland has historically had several ward names named after local churches or parishes, including the current wards of St Annes, St Chads, St Michaels and St Peters. We believe that these a historical anomaly that alienates people from local democracy, as they are not obvious or identifiable areas of the city, making it hard for people to recognise which ward they live in and who they are represented by. We also have a situation where ‘St Michael’s Ward’ does not actually contain St Michael’s Church (also known as Sunderland Minister) which does not make any sense.

9.3.2 We strongly object to the continuation of ward names in Sunderland names after parishes or churches.

10. Note on counter-proposals and Parliamentary boundaries

10.1.1 We would like to object to any counter-proposals that attempt to draw new ward boundaries that are coterminous with Parliamentary boundaries – either those

in force for the 2019 General Election or those proposed for the next General Election.

10.1.2 Whilst we know the Commission is not able to take Parliamentary boundaries into account, we wished to briefly outline why any proposals to stick to them would not lead to communities being represented effectively or efficiently under the LGBCE's criteria in response to any counter-proposals from others that sought to retain these boundaries as ward boundaries.

Boundary between Sunderland Central constituency and Houghton & Sunderland South Constituency

10.2.1 The boundary between the existing Sunderland Central constituency and the existing Houghton and Sunderland South constituency provides several problems when drawing-up new ward boundaries.

10.2.2 The border between these constituencies at the current Ryhope and Doxford Wards divides the Tunstall Bank Estate and Withernsea and Skipsea Drive from the rest of the community of Ryhope. The existing western border also poses problems in terms of new housing developments in the Ryhope and Burdon areas. Sticking with this boundary would perpetuate this artificial division and make it harder for councillors to represent Ryhope effectively if it is split across two wards.

10.2.3 The border between these constituencies along Essen Way and Premier Road divides people identifying as living in Tunstall and in similar housing types on either side of Essen Way. This border also separates Plains Farm Estate. As we outlined in section 6.6.2 of this report, we believe it is important for Plains Farm estate to be represented in the same ward to make it easier for councillors to be responsive to the needs of this community. For these reasons we would strongly oppose any counter-proposals that would retain Essen Way and Premier Road as a ward boundary.

10.2.4 The border between these constituencies along Springwell Road separates Springwell estate. We are pleased that the Commission has proposed uniting both sides of this community either side of Springwell Road into one ward, making effective representation for this area much easier and delivering more efficient local government. We would strongly oppose any counter-proposal that retains Springwell Road as a boundary as this would perpetuate the difficulties presented by having Springwell estate represented by different councillors.

10.2.5 For these reasons we would strongly object to any counter-proposals that attempt to create new wards that are coterminous with the boundaries of Sunderland Central and Houghton & Sunderland South constituency.

Boundary between Sunderland Central constituency and Washington & Sunderland West Constituency

10.3.1 The boundary between the existing Sunderland Central constituency and the existing Washington & Sunderland West constituency provides several problems when drawing-up new ward boundaries.

10.3.2 The existing boundary between St Anne's and Pallion Wards splits Pennywell into two different communities. As set out in section 4 of this submission, we believe that this creates confusion and leads to sub-standard representation by councillors. For these reasons we do not believe that the existing ward and Parliamentary boundary in this area should be retained and would object to any counter-proposals of this nature.

10.3.3 We strongly object to any counter-proposals that attempt to create new wards that are coterminous with the boundaries of Sunderland Central and Washington & Sunderland West constituency as it would not provide sensible and locally recognisable ward boundaries nor effective and efficient representation by councillors.

Boundary between Houghton & Sunderland South constituency and Washington & Sunderland West Constituency

10.4.1 The boundary between the existing Houghton & Sunderland South constituency and the existing Washington & Sunderland West constituency provides a significant problem when drawing-up new ward boundaries.

10.4.2 The boundary between the existing St Anne's and Sandhill Wards separates Broadway Estate (Sutherland Drive etc.), Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive from the rest of the communities of Grindon and Springwell. This creates an artificial boundary that makes it difficult for the entire communities to be effectively represented, as well as splitting the Barnes Park Extension across two wards.

10.4.3 We would object to any counter-proposals that attempt to retain this artificial and problematic boundary.

11. Sunderland Council's submission

11.1 The Liberal Democrats Group was asked to take part in a cross-party working group to see if a consensus could be reached between political groups on the Council which would then constitute an official submission from Sunderland City Council.

11.2 Where we have agreed to changes to boundaries and ward names as part of that cross-party group and Sunderland Council submission, we have also reflected those changes directly in this submission.

12. Conclusion

12.1 Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that the Commission's initial proposals are balanced and would lead to effective local government in Sunderland.

12.2 We believe that the small changes to ward boundaries and to ward names outlined in this proposal would make improvements in terms of representing cohesive communities in single wards and to making sure ward names are reflective of easily identifiable places and communities.

Appendix 1: Pallion and Ford Ward (revised)

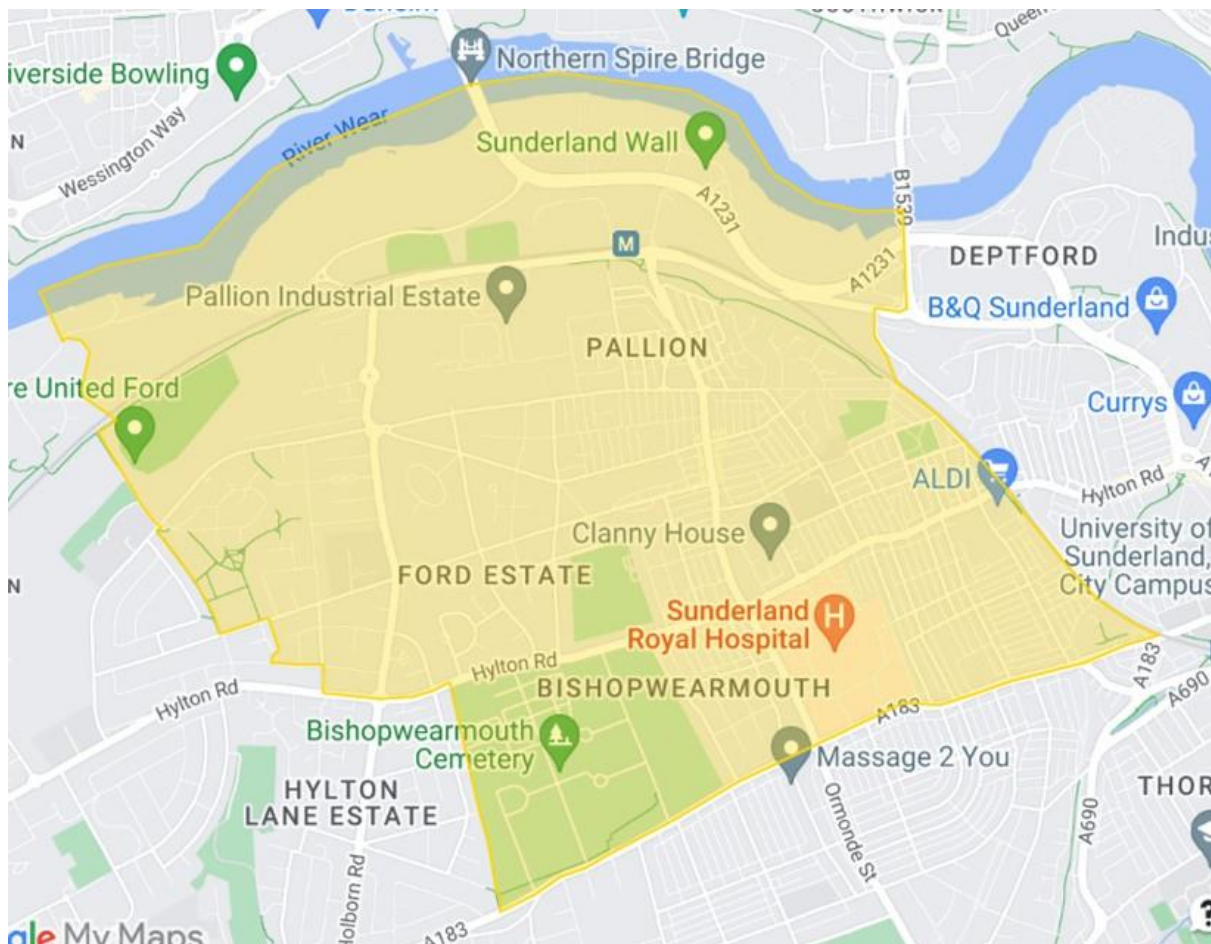
Pallion [and Ford] Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our proposal for Pallion [and Ford] Ward includes the entire community of Pallion, all of Ford and the majority of Millfield, together with the adjacent community of St Gabriels.

The ward is comprised of the existing polling districts of J01, J02, K03, K04 and K05 with part of K02 (north of Hylton Road) and part of K01 (east of Blackie Park, east of Penn Square and north of Flodden Road).

Map:



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	This ward would be +8% above the target with 9,561 electors in 2029 according to our calculations. Whilst this is within the higher end of the tolerance, it is still well within the 10% and is
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	justified by the very clear boundaries and obvious community connections.
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	<p>The ward is centred around the commercial centre of Pallion which lies at the geographic centre.</p> <p>The adjacent community of Ford is included in its entirety instead of being split across two wards. St Gabriel's and Millfield merge into Pallion from the west, south and east respectively without any clear boundaries between these areas, making these communities a natural fit together.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The ward follows natural, obvious and easily identifiable boundaries on all sides: the river to the north, railway line to the east, Chester Road to the south and Blackie Park, Bishopwearmouth Cemetery and the boundary between Ford and Pennywell to the West.</p> <p>Local residents identify which area by the letter their street begins with. This proposal ensures that all streets beginning with an 'F' and that are part of Ford on either side of Front Road will be included in the Pallion and Ford Ward.</p> <p>This will make it very easy for residents to identify the ward boundaries.</p> <p>Chester Road is a natural boundary between Barnes to the south and the Millfield/Pallion areas to the north. We believe that this should continue to be reflected to make it easy for residents to continue to recognise this road as a boundary.</p> <p>We also believe that it is important that Blackie Park remains in a single ward which these boundaries achieve.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>The 8, 10, 11, 16, 18 and 20 bus services provide excellent connections between different parts of this ward via main roads. Together with the Metro service linking Pallion and Millfield stations it is very easy to travel between different communities in this ward.</p>

<p>Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?</p>	<p>This ward would bring together communities with the area of Pallion at its heart. Pallion is currently split between Pallion and Millfield Ward, dividing the commercial centre of the area in a way which is not obvious to residents and traders. We believe that this proposal would improve governance and assist councillors in effectively representing the community.</p> <p>This revised proposal would also provide for better representation and local government by ensuring that Ford is united into one ward.</p> <p>Ensuring that Blackie Park is in a single ward would aid effective local government, allowing one set of ward councillors to oversee projects, funding applications etc. We therefore believe it is important that the edge of Blackie Park is used as a boundary between Pennywell and Ford rather than the park itself being split.</p>
<p>What type of community groups are there in the area?</p>	<p>All parts of the ward are well served by a range of community groups and facilities, namely Lambton Street Youth Centre, Pallion Action Group, Kayll Road Community Library, the Parker Trust, West Community Centre and Deptford & Millfield Community Association which provide a good range of community spaces and</p>
<p>How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?</p>	<p>North View Academy to the west and Thornhill School to the east are the main secondary schools for residents in these areas. There are a range of primary schools that serve people living in all of the communities in this ward including St Josephs, Diamon Hall and Highfield Academy.</p> <p>Shopping facilities are largely provided at Pallion Shopping Terrace along Pallion Road/St Luke's Terrace, as well as along the main east-west routes of Chester Road and Hylton Road.</p>

	<p>In the middle of the ward lies Sunderland Royal Hospital and Pallion Walk In Centre, providing access to medical services.</p> <p>The entire area is built up and densely populated, with main green spaces being Diamond Hall Pocket Park, Hylton Road Playing Fields and the Bishopwearmouth Cemetery.</p>
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	<p>The communities are brought together by their similar housing stock in the east and shared services and commercial centres in the centre and west of the ward. This proposal ensures that the community of Ford remains united instead of being split into two wards.</p>
Ward name	<p>Pallion and Ford are the two largest communities that are entirely represented in this ward. We therefore believe that it is appropriate for both communities to be represented in the ward name.</p> <p>St Gabriels is a smaller community that is already in Pallion Ward and recognises that it is represented by Pallion councillors, whilst Millfield is split across two wards and so we do not propose including Millfield in the ward name.</p> <p>As Millfield is adjacent to and runs directly into Pallion, we believe that people would be able to identify that they are included in the new Pallion ward without the need to list every community contained within the boundary.</p>

Appendix 2: Barnes and Thornhill Ward (revised)

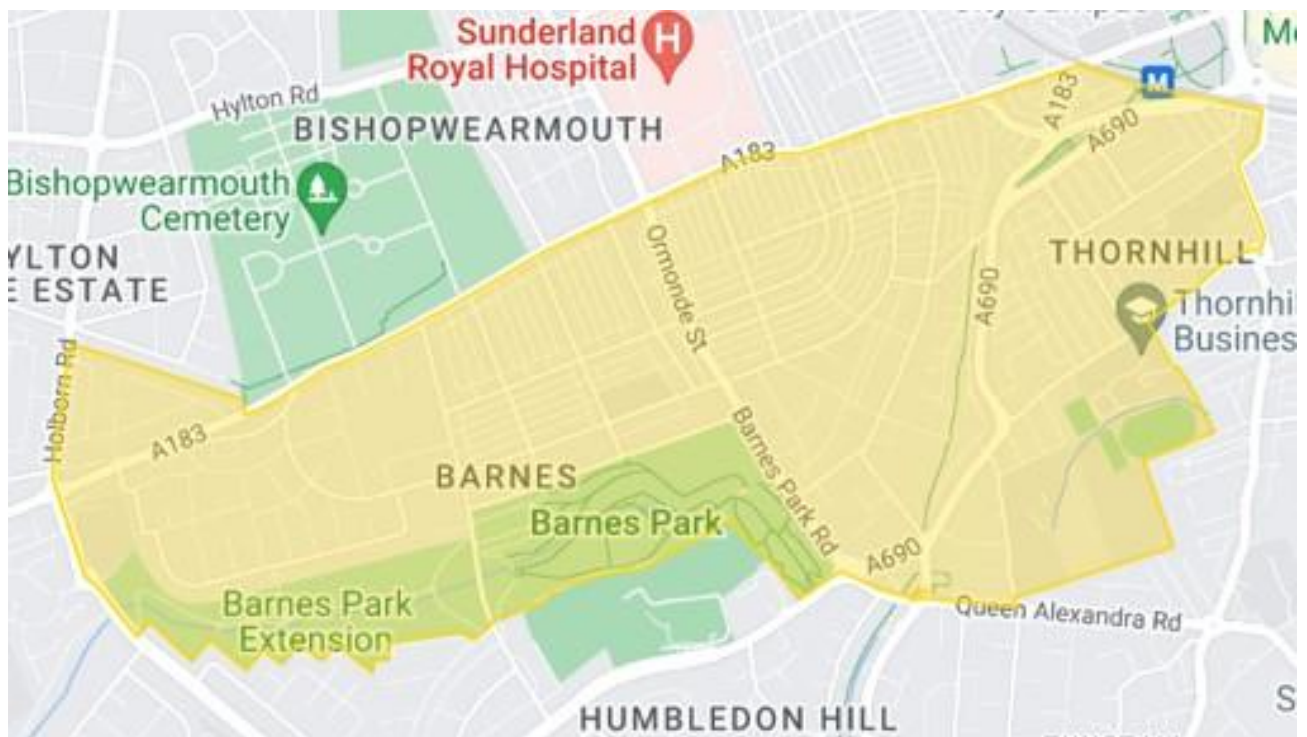
Barnes and Thornhill Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our revised proposal for Barnes and Thornhill Ward includes the entire Barnes and High Barnes communities (including those streets that identify as High Barnes but are north of Chester Road and south of Hexham Road) together with the Eden Vale and Thornhill areas to the immediate south and east of Barnes.

The ward contains the existing polling districts of A01, A02, A05 and J03, together with parts of the A04 polling district (north of Durham Road), A03 (Barnes Park and Bede College), most of P01 (north of Queen Alexandra Road and K02 (south of Hexham Road).

Map:



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	By our calculations in 2029 the ward would have 8,620 electors, a variance of -2,5%, well within the 10% threshold.
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	The ward contains the Barnes and High Barnes areas between Chester Road (as well as the streets around North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue which are north of Chester Road but are still

	<p>an integral part of the community of High Barnes), Barnes Park and Durham Road; and the Thornhill area between Chester Road and Thornholme Road – and the Dunelm South area north of the St Mary's and Barbara Priestman School.</p> <p>This counter-proposal no longer contains the neighbouring parts of Ashbrooke south of the Thornhill School grounds.</p> <p>We have ensured that the entirety of Barnes Park lies in this ward rather than being split into two wards.</p> <p>These are adjacent and cohesive communities.</p> <p>We have avoided including parts of Springwell (east of Springwell Road) and Humbledon (north of Durham Road) into this ward, as we feel that those communities should not be divided between two wards, and furthermore these residents would be separated from the bulk of the Barnes and Thornhill ward by the expanse of Barnes Park.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>Chester Road is one of the main routes in and out of the city and is an obvious and identifiable boundary which separates the Barnes and Millfield areas between University Metro station and Bishopwearmouth cemetery.</p> <p>There is a clear and justifiable reason for crossing Chester Road between Broadmayne Avenue and Holborn Road, as these streets south of Hexham Road are identifiably part of Barnes. They are the same housing type and tenure as the streets in Barnes south of Chester Road at this location and are distinct from the post war social housing type found in Hylton Lane Estate to the north.</p> <p>Using the boundaries of Thornhill and St</p>

	<p>Mary's schools will make it easy for residents to know which ward they live in depending on which side of these schools they live – as well as ensuring that all parts of Ashbrooke are included together in the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward. If you are north of Thornhill School, you are in the Barnes and Thornhill Ward and if you are east or south of Thornhill School you are in the Tunstall and Humbledon Ward.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>It is easy to walk, drive and cycle between all parts of the ward.</p> <p>The ward would benefit from excellent bus links along the major roads of Chester Road, Durham Road and Tunstall Road in and out of the city centre. The 35, 99 and 18A services would provide east-west links along Barnes Park Road.</p> <p>The former Hetton railway line cycle track provides walking and cycling links from the Barnes pub in the south to Chester Road in the north of the ward.</p> <p>University Metro station is the closest station for both Thornhill and Barnes areas and will be used by all residents on this ward.</p>
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>Councillors would represent an easily identifiable area including areas of similar housing types in the Barnes and Thornhill areas, both of which are relatively close to the centre of the city.</p> <p>All parts of the ward have a similar range of local issues due to the housing type and tenure. The revised boundary for Barnes Park makes sure the entire park is in one ward, making local initiatives and funding bids easier to administer.</p>
What type of community groups are there in the area?	<p>Thornholme Residents Association already represents people in this part of Thornhill and Barnes which are currently each represented by different wards.</p>

	<p>This ward would have easy access to community groups and services provided at the likes of St Nicholas Church, St Gabriel's Church, and Elim Church on Durham Road.</p>
<p>How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?</p>	<p>Communities across both the Barnes and Thornhill areas are served by Thornhill secondary school, together with St Mary's, Barnes and Richard Avenue primary schools. Barnes Park and Burn Park provide leisure facilities for this community.</p> <p>Community pubs in the form of The Barnes and The Stumble Inn, as well as shops and services on Chester Road and the Barnes gyratory are used by residents in both the Barnes and Thornhill areas.</p>
<p>Is there anything that binds this area as a community?</p>	<p>These are similar parts of the city with predominantly terraced housing from the same era. Both look largely to the city centre due to their proximity to it and are linked by major routes in and out of the city centre via Chester and Durham Roads.</p> <p>High Barnes, Barnes, Eden Vale and Thornhill all run into one another without significant boundaries or settlement breaks.</p> <p>Residents in all areas benefit from the amenities like Barnes Park, the former Hetton railway line cycle track and Burn Park.</p>
<p>Ward name</p>	<p>The name represents the two main areas within the ward of Barnes and Thornhill, making it clear that councillors represent all of the Barnes area together with Thornhill (widely understood to be north of Thornholme Road and south/east of Durham Road).</p>

Appendix 3: Pennywell [and South Hylton] Ward (revised)

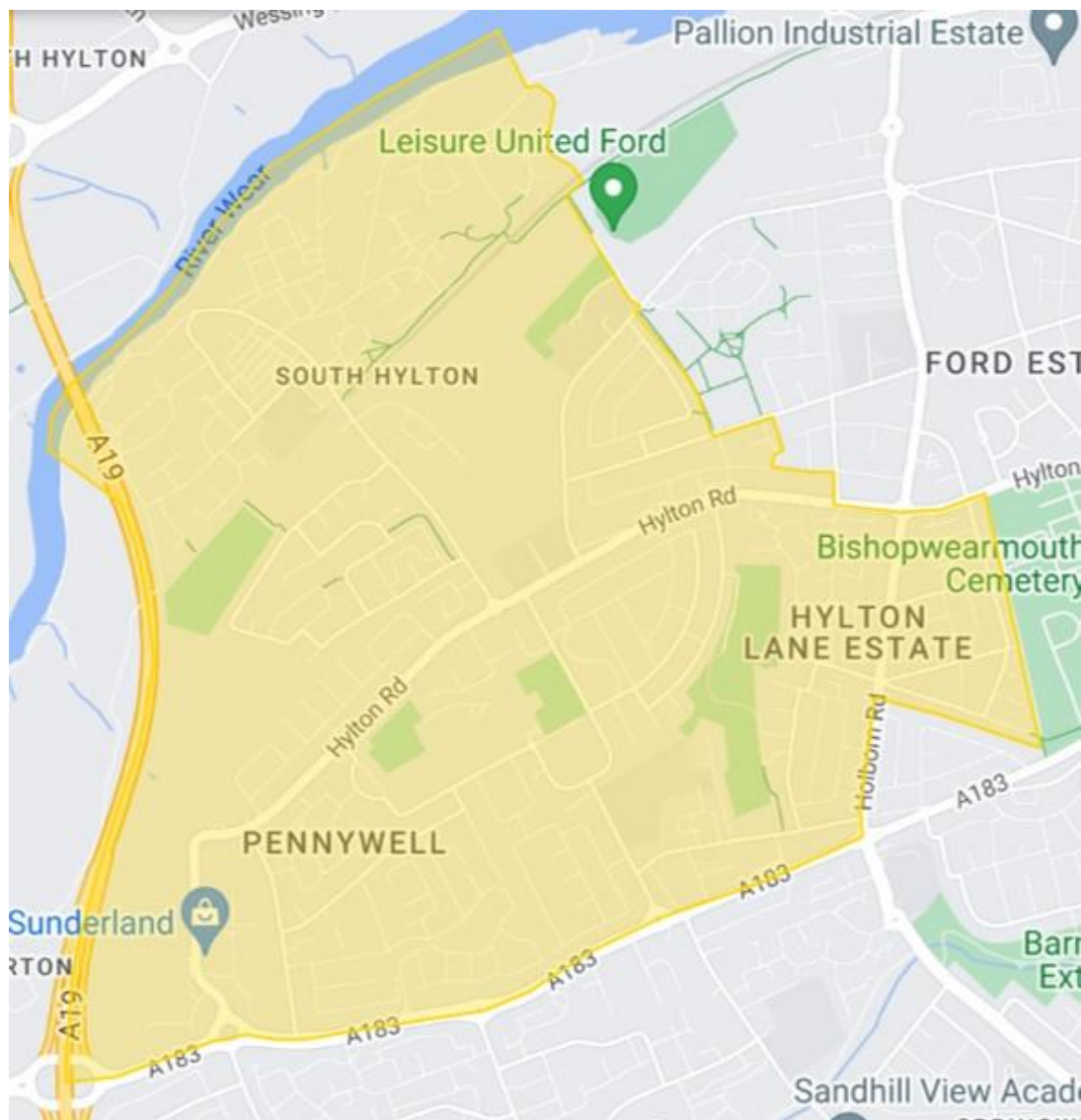
Pennywell [and South Hylton] Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our proposal for Pennywell and South Hylton Ward includes the entire estate of Pennywell, all of South Hylton, the entirety of Hylton Lane Estate and the neighbouring area of Nookside.

The ward is comprised of the existing polling districts of N01, N03 and K01 together with parts of the polling districts of N02 (north of The Broadway), N04 (north of the Broadway) and parts of K02 (south of Hylton Road and north of Hexham Road) and part of K01 (streets to the west of Blackie Park, Penn Square and north of Flodden Road).

Map:



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	The ward would have 8808 electors in 2029 by our calculations, a variance of +0.4%.
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	<p>This ward's main population centres are Pennywell estate and the village of South Hylton to the north which can only be accessed by road via Pennywell.</p> <p>The ward would also include the neighbouring area of Nookside area north of the Broadway/Chester Road in the east of the ward.</p> <p>This proposal ensures that all of Hylton Lane Estate is united in one ward, improving on the current situation where this community is split between different wards either side of Holborn Road.</p> <p>All of these areas are adjacent to, run directly into or share services with Pennywell and South Hylton.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The ward boundaries are very easy for local people to identify, following natural and obvious boundaries along the A182 Chester Road to the south; the River Wear to the North; the A19 to the West and the boundaries of Hylton Lane Estate and Pennywell to the west.</p> <p>Chester Road provides an easily identifiable boundary between Pennywell and the Grindon area to the south, which we believe should continue to be respected – especially as it is exceptionally difficult to cross in the west. This road divides rather than unites communities.</p> <p>Whilst the boundary between Pennywell and Ford may not be as smooth as the initial proposal utilising Holborn Road and Front Road as a border, we believe that this counter-proposal would better reflect community interests and coherent communities in their entirety.</p>

	Local people know that the boundary between Pennywell and Ford is marked by the change in street names, whether they begin with a 'P' for Pennywell or 'F' for Ford.
Are there good transport links?	It is easy to travel between Pennywell and South Hylton in this proposed ward via regular bus services provided by the 8, 10, 11, 18 and 20 bus services which offer routes linking large parts of the ward.
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	The ward would allow the main transport routes, commercial centres and community facilities in the far west of Sunderland itself be represented cohesively.
What type of community groups are there in the area?	<p>The Tansey Centre in South Hylton and Pennywell Community Centre are the main community centres in the area.</p> <p>A residents association representing Pennywell (Communities Together Sunderland West) meets regularly to discuss issues of concern to the community.</p>
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	<p>The community in Pennywell and Hylton Lane Estate is served by Pennywell shopping centre in the middle of the estate, whilst South Hylton has amenities in its village centre.</p> <p>Additional shopping and medical facilities along Hylton Road and Chester Road, the main high street areas.</p> <p>Claxheugh Rock / quarry area, Blackie Park and King George Playing Fields provide green spaces which are shared by residents in Pennywell, Nookside and Hylton Lane Estate alike.</p>
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	<p>As outlined above, the communities are drawn together by shared green spaces and commercial centres.</p> <p>The area shares a mix of similar housing stock in terms of age, although there is a mix between post-war social housing and pockets of private developments.</p>

	<p>Because of the geography of the area, there are hard borders in the A19 to the west and River Wear to the north, meaning these communities naturally look to each other on an east-west basis along main roads.</p>
Ward name	<p>Pennywell is the single largest community in the ward and borders all other communities. South Hylton is the other biggest community in this ward and is a unique community with a village feel that is separate from Pennywell and also deserves to be represented in a ward name.</p> <p>The current 'St Annes' name alienates the vast majority of residents, unless you have connections to the church or primary school of the same name, as it is not a real place.</p>

Appendix 4: Fulwell Ward (revised)

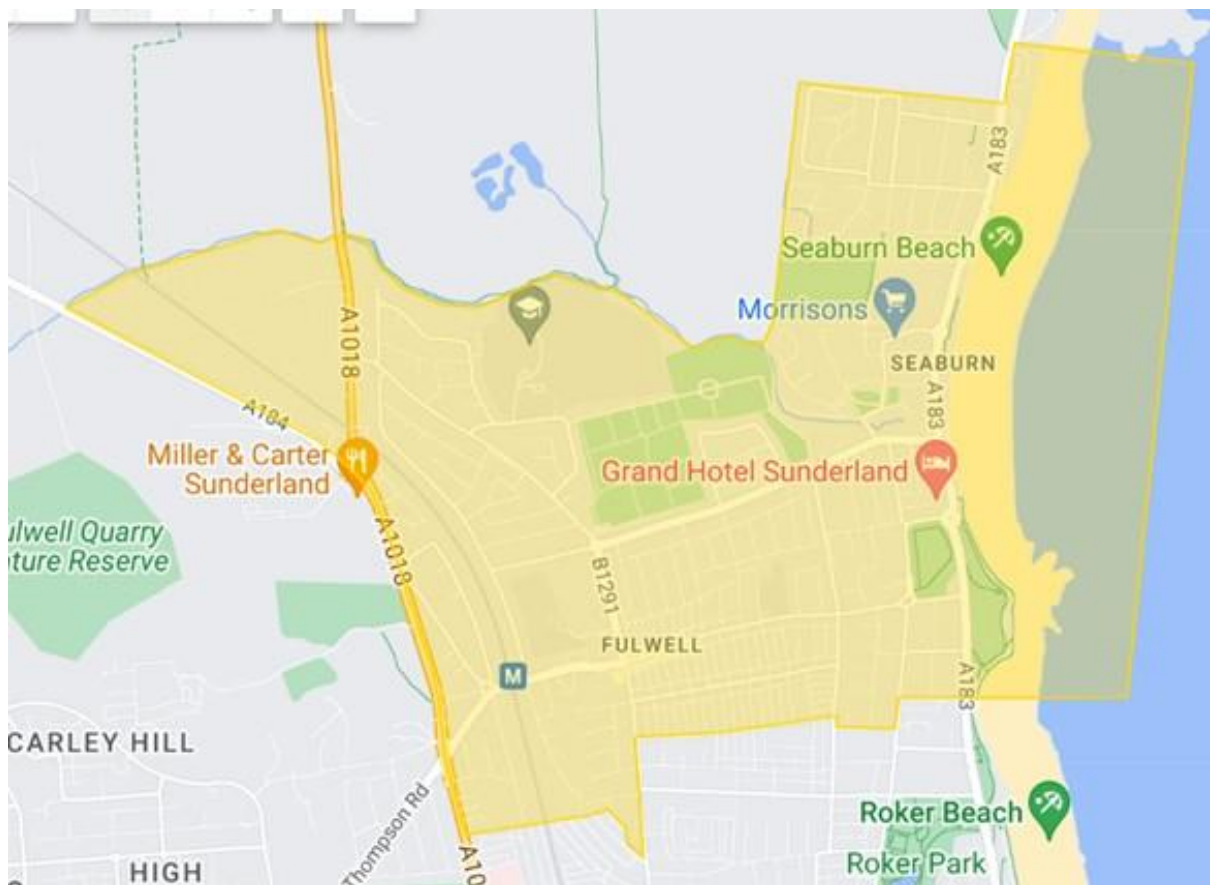
Fulwell Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our revised proposal for Fulwell Ward includes the vast majority of the area identified by local people as Fulwell together with the community of Seaburn and the neighbouring South Bents estate.

This ward contains the existing polling districts of E01, E02, E05 and parts of E03 (north of Rushcliffe and Browne Road), E04 (north of Bartram Street) and Q05 (north of Claremont Road and Peareth Road).

Map:



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	By our calculations the ward in 2029 would contain 8,892 electors, just above the target figure.
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	The assets that bring the community together and provide a focus for common interests and activities such as

	<p>Mere Knolls Cemetery, Sea Road shopping parade, Seaburn Recreation Ground would be cared for by local councillors from the same ward.</p> <p>Additionally, the consistent style of 1930s bay windowed Semi-Detached homes across the two estates, and the name of the well-used nearby Metro station “Seaburn” has blurred the lines between where Seaburn begins and Fulwell ends, potentially leading to negative outcomes if the estates are separated at a ward level.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The ward is bordered to the north by the council boundary between Sunderland and South Tyneside; to the east by the North Sea; to the south by Bartram Street, Browne Road, Claremont Road and Peareth Road; and to the west by Newcastle Road.</p> <p>These represent clear, consistent and easy to identify boundaries for people to recognise.</p> <p>We believe that the consistent boundary along Newcastle Road will provide consistency for residents, rather than changing between this arterial road and the railway line.</p> <p>Whilst there is no hard and fast border between the communities for Fulwell and Seaburn to the north and Roker to the south, we have tried to follow a clear line as far as possible from east to west along adjacent streets. Our revised proposal using Browne Road and adjacent streets will ensure that all streets and community facilities in Roker to be in the Roker Ward.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>There are excellent local transport links between these suburbs of Sunderland, with regular north-south and east-west links between different part of the wards served by Stagecoach’s 18, 23, E1, E2 and E6 services.</p>
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>The main road of Newcastle Road is a dual carriageway in large parts, and</p>

	provides a hard boundary between communities on either side. Sharing a ward across this road with limited crossing points would not allow for community cohesion or effective local representation.
What type of community groups are there in the area?	Fulwell Community Library, 607 Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets and Fulwell Methodist Church provide a range of local services, community groups and youth activities for residents of Seaburn, South Bents and Fulwell.
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	Sea Road which the vast majority of residents use for basic services like banking, groceries and repairs is a natural focal point for Fulwell, South Bents and Seaburn, with Fulwell Juniors and Fulwell Infant schools at either end, where the majority of children from all three estates attend.
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	1930s Bay-Windowed Semi Detached housing and terraced bungalows on the Fulwell Terraces, which look onto Sea Road.
Ward name	'Fulwell' clearly differentiates the ward from the neighbouring settlements of Roker and Southwick. Fulwell is the largest single community in the ward. Fulwell has been a ward name in this area for many years and so is understood by the local community.

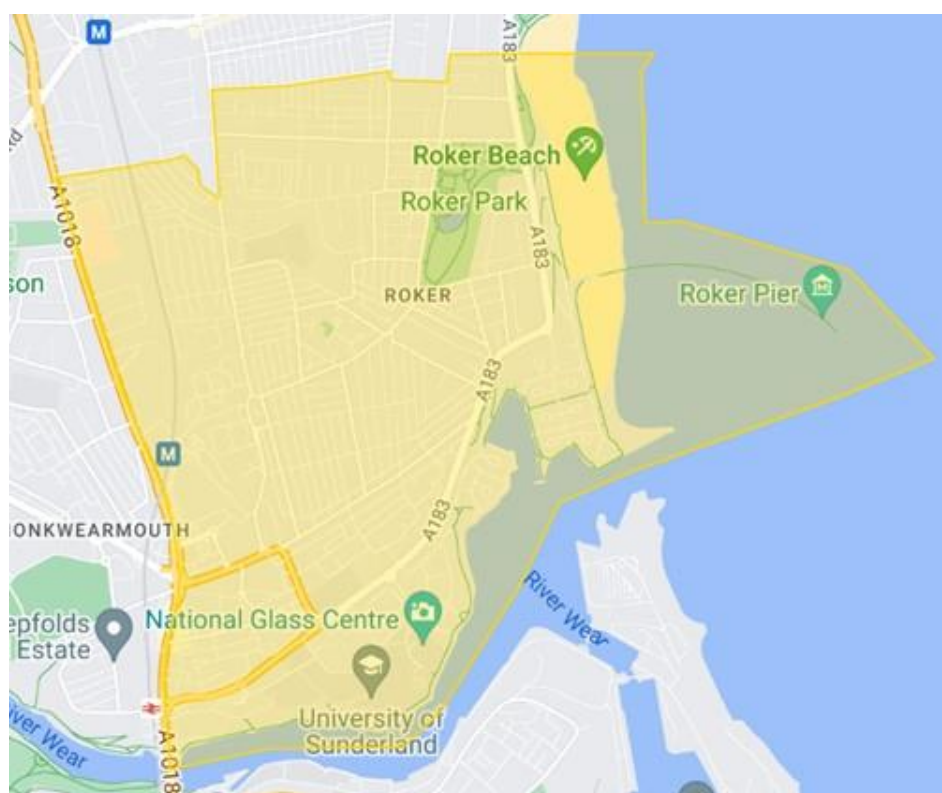
Appendix 5: Roker Ward (revised)

Roker Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our proposal for Roker Ward includes the communities of Roker and parts of Monkwearmouth.

The ward contains the existing polling districts of Q01, Q02, Q03 and Q04 together with parts of E04 (south of Bartram Street), E03 (south of Rushcliffe and Browne Road), U04 (east of Newcastle Road) and Q05 (south of Claremont Road and Peareth Road).



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	The ward in 2029 would contain 8,537 electors, which is under the target but still within quota.
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	The assets that bring the community together and provide a focus for common interests and activities such as Roker Park and Roker Beach would be represented by local councillors from the same ward as the majority of the people that use them.
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	The North Sea to the East, the River Wear to the South and Newcastle Road

	<p>to the West provide hard and understandable boundaries for the ward while Browne Road, Claremont Road and Peareth Road provide a fairly straight line east-west to provide an identifiable boundary between Fulwell and Roker wards.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>There are excellent local transport links between Roker, Seaburn, Monkwearmouth and Newcastle Road areas with regular north-south and east-west links between different part of the wards served by Stagecoach's 18, 23, E1, E2 and E6 services.</p> <p>The Tyne and Wear Metro provides north-south links between St Peter's, Stadium of Light and Seaburn Metro stations.</p>
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>The ward is entirely to the East of Newcastle Road, promoting effective local representation and community cohesion on one side of this arterial route. The ward would also allow the major attractions for residents and visitors in the Roker and riverside areas to be represented in a single ward.</p>
What type of community groups are there in the area?	<p>Redby Community Centre as well as New Springs City Church provide a range of local services, community groups and youth activities for residents of Roker.</p>
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	<p>The main shopping facilities are provided for all residents at the Roker Retail Park, with additional smaller shopping parades along local high streets. The sea front provides a natural focus for bars, restaurants, cafés and shared recreational facilities.</p> <p>The ward would keep the entire St Peter's University Campus together, giving students a single point of contact for councillors instead of being split over multiple wards.</p> <p>The revised ward boundary ensures that community facilities including Roker United Reformed Church and St</p>

	Andrew's Church Roker are now included in the Roker Ward.
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	The majority terraced housing in Roker gives it a separate identity from Fulwell and Seaburn Semi-Detached houses to the north.
Ward name	Roker is a more appropriate name which reflects the centre of, and main settlement of, the ward. The previous name "St Peter's" caused confusion as it is not an actual place – only a church and Metro station.

Appendix 6: Doxford [Park] Ward (revised)

Doxford [Park] Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our revised proposal for Doxford Park ward includes all the estates in and around the Doxford Park area, either side of Doxford Park way, that are distinct and separate from Herrington to the West, Silksworth to the North, Tunstall Village to the north-east, and Ryhope to the east.

This includes Doxford Park, Beckwith Green, Moorside, East Moorside, Chapelgarth, Burdon Vale, Potters Hill, Burdon village, old Burdon hamlet, Hall Farm, Thristley Wood, Mill Hill, Churchfields and the area around Warden Law Lane and Silksworth Hall Drive.

The ward contains the existing polling districts of D01, D02 (with a revised eastern boundary to reflect planned development sites), D03 and D04 (with a revised northern boundary which does not affect the number of electors).



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	By our calculations, the ward in 2029 would contain 8,121 electors, 8.2% under the quota.
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	<p>This figure was achieved by using Sunderland City Council's projections for the D01, D02, D03 and D04 polling districts, together with the 550 electors in the planned dwellings in the D05 polling district north of Burdon Lane (referenced in Section 53 of the Commission's initial proposals) that would sit in the new Doxford Park ward.</p> <p>The South Sunderland Growth Area in the south of the current D02 polling district has been identified as an area of widespread housing growth. We believe that this area will see significant new development over and above that already identified by the Council, and that it would be sensible to allow for housing growth in this area in the future, rather than proposing a Doxford Park Ward that was already at the higher end of the threshold.</p>
<p>Does it reflect community interests and identity?</p>	<p>The ward includes all of the communities that naturally consider themselves to be part of the wider Doxford Park area.</p> <p>These focus on the relatively new housing developments around Doxford Park Way, Mill Hill Road and Doxford Road. This includes the estates of Moorside, East Moorside, Doxford Park, Knightswood, Broadway Grange, Mill Hill, Hall Farm, Thristley Wood, Burdon Vale, Chapelgarth and Potters Hill. All of these areas look to Doxford Park shops in and around Morrisons for their local centre.</p> <p>The proposal also includes the entire parish of Burdon to the south which includes the newly developed parts of the parish in the north and the older Burdon village and hamlets in the south.</p> <p>This revised proposal benefits from making sure that all streets that are a part of Silksworth north of Ruswarp Drive and west of Burdon Road are now contained with the rest of Silksworth.</p>

	<p>This proposal also improves on the existing warding arrangements in the area which sees the Tunstall Bank Estate and Withernsea Grove area of Ryhope separated from the rest of that village.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The ward has a clear boundary to the north along the settlement gap between Doxford Park and Silksworth along the allotments and land north of Ruswarp Drive.</p> <p>The main roads of Silksworth Road, Silksworth Way and the B1286 are clear and easy to understand boundaries to the north-west, and also respect the natural boundaries between the communities of Moorside and East Herrington.</p> <p>To the south/south-west the boundary follows the Burdon parish boundary and then the A19 and B1286. Again, these are main roads and easy to identify and natural boundaries.</p> <p>We support the Commission's plans for the eastern boundary with Ryhope, as recommended in the initial proposals, to ensure that there is no empty parish ward. However, this proposal would provide a much clearer and easy to identify boundary between Doxford Park and Ryhope wards by consistently using the newly-built Rotary Road until it meets Burdon Lane. This would prevent any new development east of Rotary Road adjoining existing streets in Ryhope from being an outlier in Doxford Park Ward instead of in Ryhope Ward with their neighbours.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>The 4, 12 and 13 bus services provide links within the different parts of the Doxford Park area.</p> <p>The 39 provides an additional comprehensive east-west route directly linking Moorside and East Moorside in the west of the ward, through the centre</p>

	<p>of the ward and up to the edges of the Tunstall village green area.</p> <p>There are strong road links with Doxford Park Way linking all parts of the ward from east to west.</p>
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>The proposal will bring significant improvements to the current arrangements in this area, by removing the parts of Ryhope that are included in Doxford Ward despite not having any affinity to Doxford Park; and making sure issues affecting Silksworth are dealt with by one set of ward councillors instead of two.</p> <p>This proposed boundary will make sure that Doxford Park councillors are dealing with issues facing similar estates and housing tenures, in contrast to the older, terraced housing in Silksworth.</p>
What type of community groups are there in the area?	<p>The Box Youth Project and Doxford Community Centre near Morrisons provide a community centre facility with a range of activities and services for the Doxford Park area.</p> <p>Ryhope and Silksworth have their own set of community groups and institutions, which reinforces this proposed boundary which would ensure that the communities of Silksworth, Ryhope and Doxford Park remain separate and are each respected in terms of boundaries between them.</p>
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	<p>The ward is centred around local shops and services that are located in the Doxford Park centre area in and around Morrisons supermarket. This is the focal point for the communities in this ward.</p> <p>In contrast, communities in Silksworth look to their own village centre and shops around Silksworth Road and Blind Lane.</p>

	<p>Doxford Park is the main recreational space for the surrounding community. All parts of the ward are served by the nearby Venerable Bede and Farrington secondary schools, with a range of feeder primary schools spread across the area.</p>
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	<p>All the communities in this ward share a local supermarket, shops, amenities and green spaces in a cohesive manner on either side of Doxford Park Way, and which respect the settlement gaps with the neighbouring Herrington, Silksworth and Ryhope areas.</p>
Ward name	<p>The residential area at the heart of this proposed ward is known locally as 'Doxford Park', mirroring the name of an actual park also contained in the ward. In contrast 'Doxford' is the name of a well-known local family and the name of a former shipyard in the city. There is no such place as 'Doxford' and local signs, buses etc. all refer to 'Doxford Park'.</p> <p>'Doxford Park' accurately and conveniently reflects the name of the area and housing estates that people identify with this part of the city.</p>

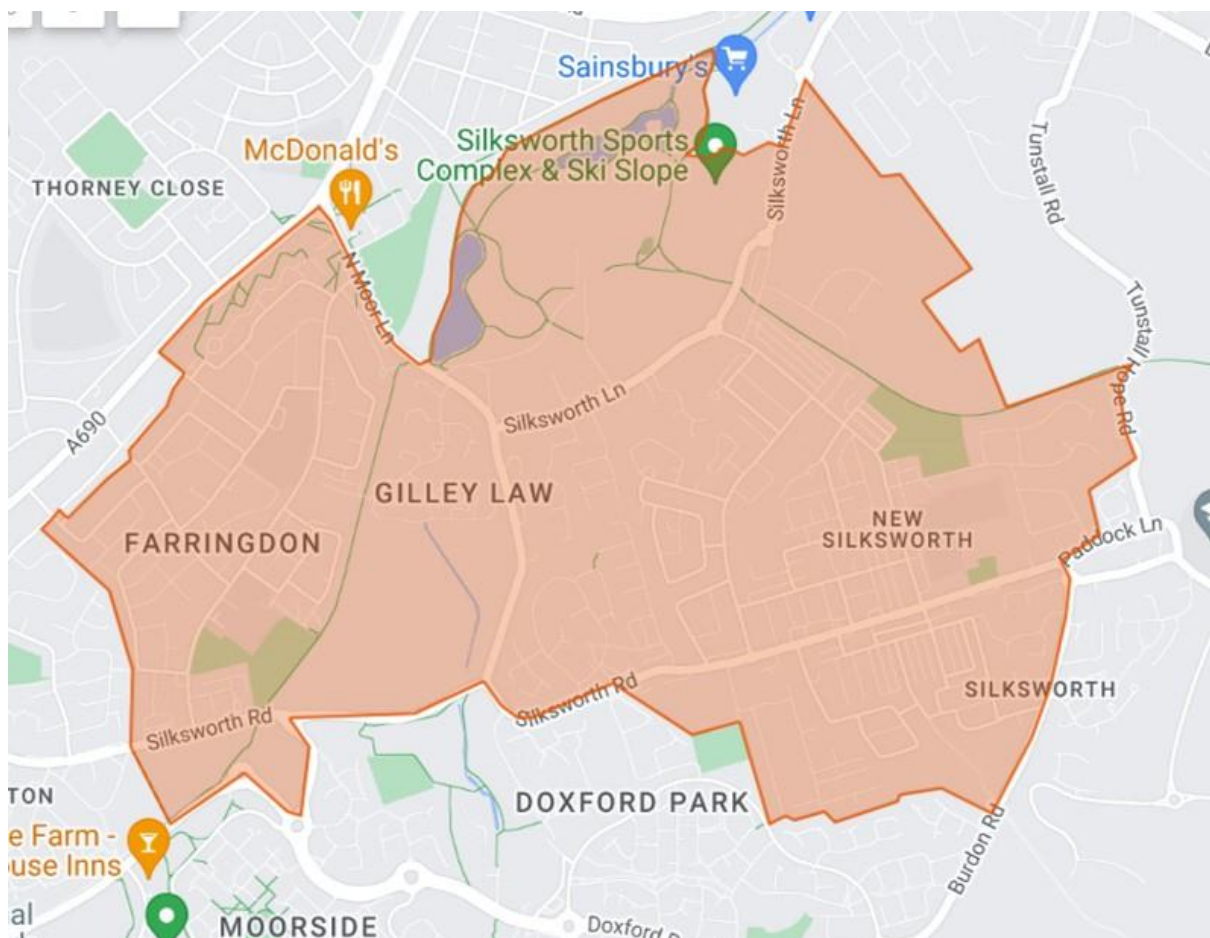
Appendix 7: Silksworth and Farrington Ward (revised)

Silksworth and Farrington Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our revised proposal for Silksworth and Farrington Ward includes the entire of the historic village of Silksworth, including those streets south of Silksworth Road and Tunstall Village Road, together with the entire estate of Farrington and the whole community of Gilley Law/Lakeside.

The ward is comprised of the existing polling districts of O01, O02, O04, T03, T04 and T05, and part of D05 (east of Burdon Road) and part of O03 (the streets of Atlantis Road, Andrew Road, Antwerp Road and Arkle Road).



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	<p>This ward would have 9,726 electors, 9.9% above the threshold.</p> <p>This is based on the electors in the Farrington & Silksworth Ward in the Commission's initial proposals, with the</p>
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	<p>addition projected numbers of electors in the streets south of Silksworth Road/Tunstall Village Road and west of Burdon Road.</p> <p>Those streets are: Aline Street, Cambridge Avenue, Cherrywood Grove, Davison Avenue, Emmerson Terrace West, Hill Street, Londonderry Street, Lord Street, Maria Street, Norman Avenue, Orr Avenue, Park Avenue, Pembroke Avenue, Redwood Grove, Robert Street, Shoreswood Grove and Surrey Avenue.</p> <p>We believe that this higher than average electorate is justified as it is still within the 10% variance whilst ensuring that the village community of Silksworth remains in one ward. This proposal also received unanimous cross-party support from the working group established by Sunderland City Council.</p>
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	<p>This proposal brings together the post war council estate of Farringdon, the tower blocks and more recent homes in the Gilley Law/Lakeside area before entering the communities of Silksworth/New Silksworth.</p> <p>These are neighbouring areas with strong links to the east and west, shared community facilities and spaces.</p> <p>This proposal ensures that the integrity of Farringdon is preserved, instead of being merged with neighbouring Herrington.</p> <p>This revised proposal also ensures that all parts of the historic village of Silksworth are in one ward. There was significant dissatisfaction from residents that part of Silksworth south of the main road through the centre of the community could be in a separate ward, despite being an integral part of the community.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The green spaces around Silksworth sports complex and Tunstall Hill</p>

	<p>provides a clear break in communities to the north of the ward, with North Moor Road and Durham Road providing obvious boundaries to the west.</p> <p>The natural settlement breaks between the Doxford Park and Silksworth areas are respected to the south. Burdon Road provides a clear and obvious boundary, and respects the fact that residents in the streets to the east of this main road (Goathland Drive etc.) see themselves as part of Tunstall Village rather than Silksworth.</p> <p>The western boundary follows the easily identifiable boundary between the post war estate of Farringdon and the more recent private streets nearby which are identifiable locally as being part of East Herrington rather than Farringdon.</p> <p>We believe all of these boundaries will be easily identifiable by residents who know where Silksworth and Farringdon areas start and stop.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>The 12 and 13 bus routes provide regular circular routes which service the main population and shopping centres in Silksworth, Farringdon and Gilley Law - making it easy to travel between the different parts of this ward. The 3 bus service also provides links between different parts of Farringdon and Gilley Law.</p> <p>The 35 bus links the southern part of Farringdon with Silksworth along Silksworth Road, Blind Lane and Warwick Terrace.</p> <p>The 2 bus route provides an additional circular service within the Silksworth area and links through to the Tunstall village area in the very east of the ward.</p>
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>This proposal will improve the existing arrangements in these areas by</p>

	<p>separating the distinct and different communities of Farringdon and Herrington.</p> <p>The boundary would allow issues on green spaces around Silksworth Lake and on green space south of Gilley Law to be represented effectively in one electoral ward.</p> <p>The revised proposal keeps all of the Silksworth area together, preserving its integrity and ensuring it is represented by one set of councillors.</p> <p>This also improves on the current Silksworth Ward where communities in Tunstall, Ashbrooke and half of Plains Farm are included with Silksworth despite there being large distances and settlement breaks between them.</p>
What type of community groups are there in the area?	<p>Youth Almighty provides existing youth services in the Silksworth, Farringdon and Gilley Law areas and would be able to do so more effectively if they are represented in one ward.</p> <p>There are a range of churches and community spaces in the estate of Farringdon and in Silksworth centre.</p>
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	<p>All parts of the ward share recreational facilities around Silksworth lake and the neighbouring sports complex. In addition to shopping and medical facilities in Silksworth itself, both communities are served by the Sainsbury's supermarket to the north of this area.</p> <p>All of the communities are also served by shops, restaurants and the community police and fire stations at North Moor. A retail park is currently being developed in this location which will also be easily accessible by people in all parts of this proposed ward.</p>
Is there anything that binds this area as a community?	<p>As outlined above, the community is brought together by excellent transport</p>

	links, shops and recreational facilities that both sides of the ward look to and which all of these communities together.
Ward name	<p>The largest settlements on either side of the ward are Silksworth and Farringdon. We do not believe it would create an easily identifiable ward name for residents by choosing just one of these names and so we have included both in the ward name for clarity.</p> <p>Similarly, Gilley Law/Lakeside also has two names for the same area so it would be difficult to either choose one, or include both.</p>

Appendix 8: Tunstall and Humbledon Ward (revised)

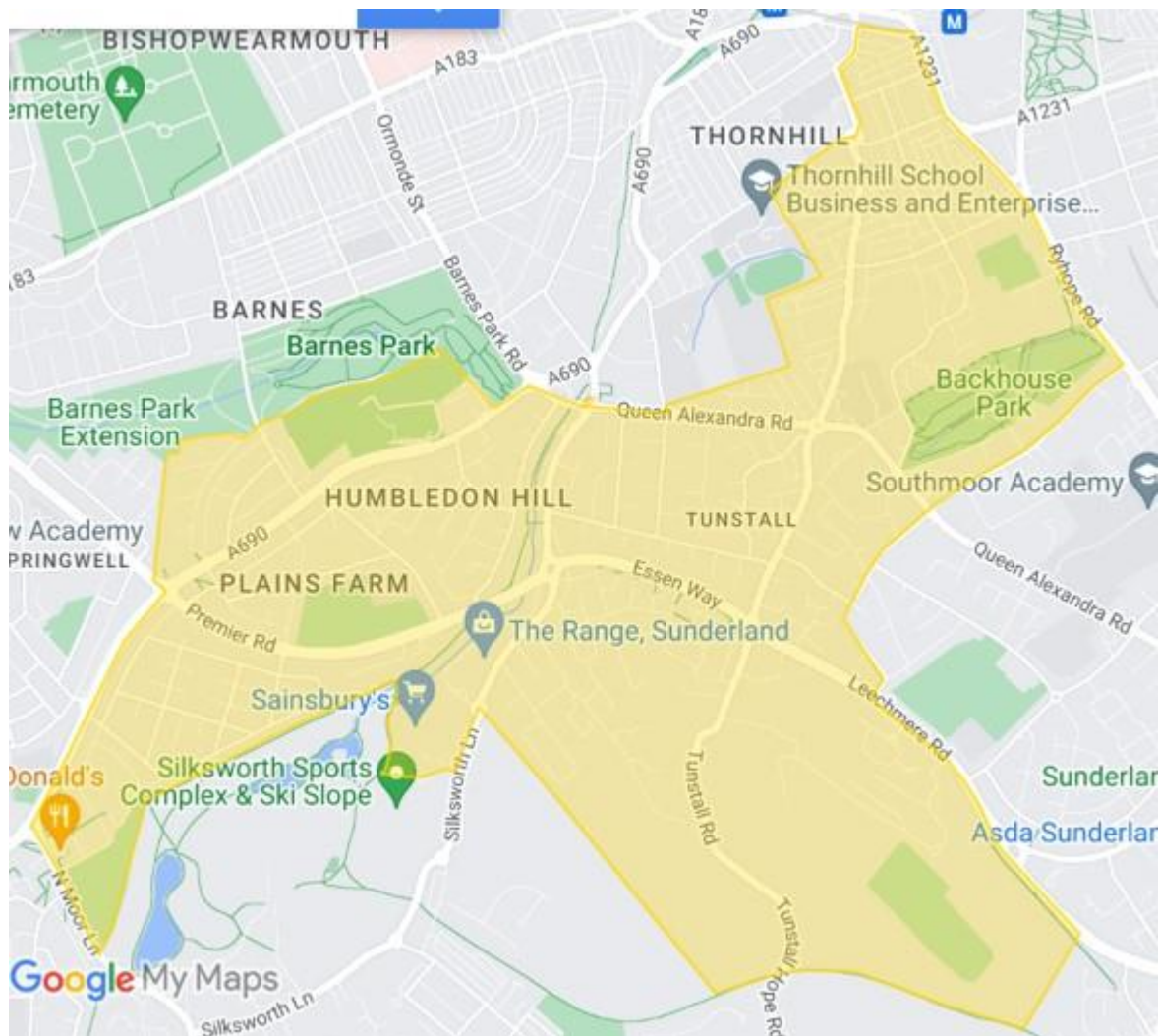
Tunstall and Humbledon Ward (revised)

Overview:

Our proposal for Tunstall and Humbledon Ward includes the Humbledon and Plains Farm areas together with neighbouring Tunstall and Ashbrooke areas.

The ward is made up of the existing polling districts of P03, T01 and T02 together with parts of the following polling districts: A03 (east of Springwell and south of Barnes Burn), A04 (south of Durham Road), P01 (mostly south of Queen Alexandra Road), and P02 (west of Stockton and Ryhope Roads).

Map:



How does the proposal meet the criteria?

Electoral equality	We calculate that this proposal would have 9,678 electors in 2029 (adding the
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	<p>873 electors in the streets transferring from Barnes and Thornhill ward to the 8805 electors in 2029 in the Commission's initial proposal). This is 9.3% above the target, and within the 10% threshold.</p>
Does it reflect community interests and identity?	<p>The ward brings together neighbouring communities around Humbledon Hill to the west and Strawberry Bank to the east. These areas blend into one another seamlessly and share local facilities and green spaces.</p> <p>The revised proposals are improved in this regard as streets that are an integral part of Ashbrooke are not split into another ward where they may become a minority interest for councillors representing that area.</p>
Are the boundaries easily identifiable?	<p>The ward uses natural features, settlement breaks, main roads and identifiable landmarks and borders between identifiable suburbs wherever possible as boundaries. The ward keeps estates and communities together, making it easy for people to know in which ward they live.</p> <p>The border in the east of the Ward is not as obvious but is consistent following a clear line up and down Greystoke Avenue, Linden Gardens, Ashbrooke Range and The Cedars.</p> <p>The revised boundary running along the edge of Thornhill School grounds and St Mary's RC Primary School grounds provides a clear and locally understood boundary, with streets on the southern side of Thornholme Road and Dunelm included with the rest of the Barnes and Thornhill area, and those south and east of the school grounds staying with the rest of Ashbrooke.</p>
Are there good transport links?	<p>There are readily available bus links on key east-west and north-south routes in this ward utilising the main roads of Leechmere Road, Essen Way, Tunstall Road, Silksworth Lane and Durham</p>

	Road through the 3, 4, 12, 13 and 18A bus services.
Will it help the Council deliver effective, convenient local government?	<p>The ward would eliminate current anomalies where Plains Farm estate is split over two wards; and where residents in the suburban Tunstall area either side of Essen Way are also represented in two different wards.</p> <p>This revised proposal ensures that Ashbrooke, including the Tunstall Park, Alexandra Park and Belle Vue Park areas, are represented by one set of councillors.</p>
What type of community groups are there in the area?	Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre provides facilities in the west of the ward, with St Michael's Community Centre and St Nicholas Church doing likewise in the East. St John's Church and St George's Church provide local community groups with places to meet and offer a variety of youth groups.
How does the proposed ward fit with facilities such as schools, leisure facilities, shopping and medical facilities?	<p>Silksworth Sainsbury's provides a central major supermarket for these communities, within additional shopping facilities being found at The Barnes roundabout and at the junction of Tunstall Road and Queen Alexandra Road.</p> <p>There are excellent green spaces at Silksworth Lake to the south, Barnes Park to the West and Backhouse Park to the East.</p> <p>St Aidan's secondary school is located in the ward, with nearby Thornhill and Southmoor Schools also serving residents.</p> <p>The streets we propose to move from the Barnes and Thornhill Ward also share these types of facilities with the rest of Ashbrooke - including The Rosedene public house, Ashbrooke Cricket Club and Sports Complex, and churches such as St Timothy's, St John's and St George's URC (and their associated church halls, youth groups, Scouts and Guides etc.). For these</p>

	<p>reasons it is important that these streets are in a ward with the rest of the community, rather than being isolated at the edge of a Barnes and Thornhill Ward.</p>
<p>Is there anything that binds this area as a community?</p>	<p>The ward brings together two communities with natural focal points – namely the Humbledon Hill area which unites Humbledon and Plains Farm, with neighbouring Tunstall and Ashbrooke areas being centred around Strawberry Bank and Tunstall Road. There are good links east-west along major routes which bring these communities together. Our revised proposal ensures that resident on both sides of Tunstall Road and Queen Alexandra Road are represented in the same ward, bringing the entire community together.</p>
<p>Ward name</p>	<p>Tunstall and Humbledon represent the two halves of the ward and would be easily identifiable for surrounding communities.</p> <p>We would be content for Ashbrooke to feature in the revised ward name instead of Tunstall, if the Commission thought that it may cause confusion for residents of Tunstall Village which is in the proposed Ryhope Ward.</p>