

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Paul Edgeworth
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Wearside Liberal Democrats (Political groups)

Comment text:

Please find attached a joint submission from the Liberal Democrats Group on Sunderland City Councillor and the Wearside Liberal Democrats.

Attached Documents:

- sunderland-lgbce---consultation-on-revised-proposals---liberal-democrats-response-[22-04-24].docx
- sunderland-lgbce---consultation-on-revised-proposals---liberal-democrats-response-[22-04-24].pdf

Warding arrangements in the Sunderland City Council area Consultation on proposals

Wearside Liberal Democrats submission April 2024

1. Introduction

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.

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

2. Summary

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.

We particularly welcome changes that have been made since the last set of proposals were published, notably:

- The inclusion of the North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue areas in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward to ensure all of High Barnes is represented by one set of councillors.
- The proposal to ensure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is represented by one set of councillors in the Pennywell & South Hylton Ward.
- The Commission's proposals for the boundary between Pennywell and Ford Estate, ensuring that all roads beginning with 'P' are represented by Pennywell councillors and all roads beginning with 'F' are represented by Ford councillors.
- The inclusion of Hollycarrside estate in a single ward, so that the entire community is represented by one set of councillors.

We would be happy for the proposals to be adopted as final recommendations, subject to some minor changes to a few ward boundaries, namely:

- Transferring the area of Humbledon around Stamford Avenue, Shrewsbury Crescent and Shaftesbury Crescent from Grindon & Thorney Close Ward to St Chads Ward; ensuring that all of Humbledon is included in one ward rather than being split across two.
- Transferring streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from Fulwell Ward to Roker Ward, to ensure all parts of Roker are in Roker Ward.

- Using Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and Ryhope Wards, which is an obvious and identifiable boundary, so that Lufton Close and Cedar Way – which can only be accessed from Ryhope – are not isolated from the rest of their community by being the only bits of Ryhope and the only streets east of Rotary Road included in the Doxford Park Ward.

We have given comments on the proposed boundaries for each ward below, and have also made some suggested changes to several ward names.

We would also be content for the Commission revert to their original recommendations based around a cross-A19 ward in the Herrington area, a 'Tunstall & Humbledon' seat and a 'Silksworth & Farringdon Ward', believing that this arrangement also has merit.

3. Approach

We have split our submission into two parts. Firstly, we have provided comment and suggested minor amendments to the Commission's revised proposals to ensure better representation for communities in section 4 of this submission.

We have then expanded on the arguments for retaining the previous proposals in the Herrington, Farringdon, Silksworth, Tunstall and Humbledon areas of the city in section 5 of this submission.

4. Comments on the Commission's revised proposals

North-West Sunderland

4.1 Proposed Barnes & Thornhill Ward

Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's proposals for a Barnes & Thornhill Ward which contains a set of cohesive communities in the Barnes/High Barnes and Thornhill areas, together with parts of Ashbrooke that border Thornhill School.

These communities share a similar style of housing and share the same shops, schools and local amenities.

The inclusion of streets in High Barnes that are north of The Broadway (North Hall Drive, Brierfield Grove, Broadmayne Avenue) is particularly welcome, ensuring that the entire community of High Barnes is included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward and making sure that those streets share the same set of councillors as the rest of their community.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Barnes & Thornhill and its boundaries in its final recommendations.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed ward name of Barnes & Thornhill which represents both parts of the ward.

4.2 Proposed Hylton Castle Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposals in the Hylton Castle, Castletown and Town End Farm area.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that Hylton Castle is an appropriate name for the ward, reflecting the castle itself and Hylton Castle housing estate. Alternative proposals including the existing name of 'Castle' are confusing for residents as it does not represent an actual location or a specific castle, therefore making it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

4.3 Proposed Pallion & Ford Ward

Boundaries:

Wearside Lib Dems believe that the Commission's revised proposals for a Pallion & Ford Ward are an improvement on earlier proposals. The new boundaries ensure that coherent communities are retained together in a single ward and that locally recognised and respected boundaries based on streets starting with different letters of the alphabet.

The revised proposal will be welcomed by residents as both parts of Ford Estate either side of Front Road will now be united in a single ward.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Pallion & Ford Ward in the final recommendations.

Ward name:

The revised name of Pallion & Ford represents to the largest communities in the ward. We believe that this is appropriate given that the new ward contains all of the Ford estate area. As Millfield is split across two wards, we do not believe that it should be included in the ward name.

4.4 Proposed Pennywell & South Hylton Ward

Boundaries:

As with the revised Pallion & Ford ward, we welcome the Commission's revised proposals in the Pennywell area. The new boundaries ensure that all streets in Pennywell are represented in the same ward, and that the locally recognised boundary between Pennywell and Ford is respected by the ward boundary.

Similarly, the changes to make sure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is united in one ward will be welcomed by the local community. We urge the Commission to retain the boundaries for this ward as proposed.

Ward name:

Along with other political parties represented on the Council, we believe that South Hylton deserves to be represented in the ward name as well as Pennywell in recognition of its status as an independent village community aside from the neighbouring estate of Pennywell. We support the Commission's proposal to name the ward 'Pennywell and South Hylton'.

4.5 Proposed Redhouse Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal which keeps the neighbouring and similar communities of Red House, Downhill, Wear View and Witherwack together, alongside part of Town End Farm.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats wholeheartedly agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Redhouse Ward' reflecting the biggest single community in the ward. This is a well known and identifiable part of North Sunderland and will help residents in Redhouse and the neighbouring estates to be able to identify their councillors.

We strongly oppose suggestions for retaining the existing 'Redhill' ward name which is a portmanteau that doesn't reflect a real or identifiable place name. Similarly, 'St Cuthberts' as a ward name would not be helpful in describing an area or helping residents to be able to identify their ward and local councillors.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed 'Redhouse' ward name.

North-East Sunderland

4.6 Proposed Deptford & Hendon Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal for a ward based on communities bordering and including the city centre, which share similar needs, issues and community facilities.

The proposed boundaries follow obvious and identifiable boundaries along the railway line and main roads in the area.

We agree that Villette Road is an easy to understand boundary between the southern part of the Deptford and Hendon Ward and the northern part of the

Grangetown Ward; and is superior to any of the nearby alternatives which would be unclear and would not be easily to identify for local people.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that 'Deptford and Hendon' is the most suitable name for this ward, reflecting two communities at either side of it. Deptford is an identifiable place which is experiencing significant regeneration and which will soon include large areas of new housing.

4.7 Proposed Fulwell Ward

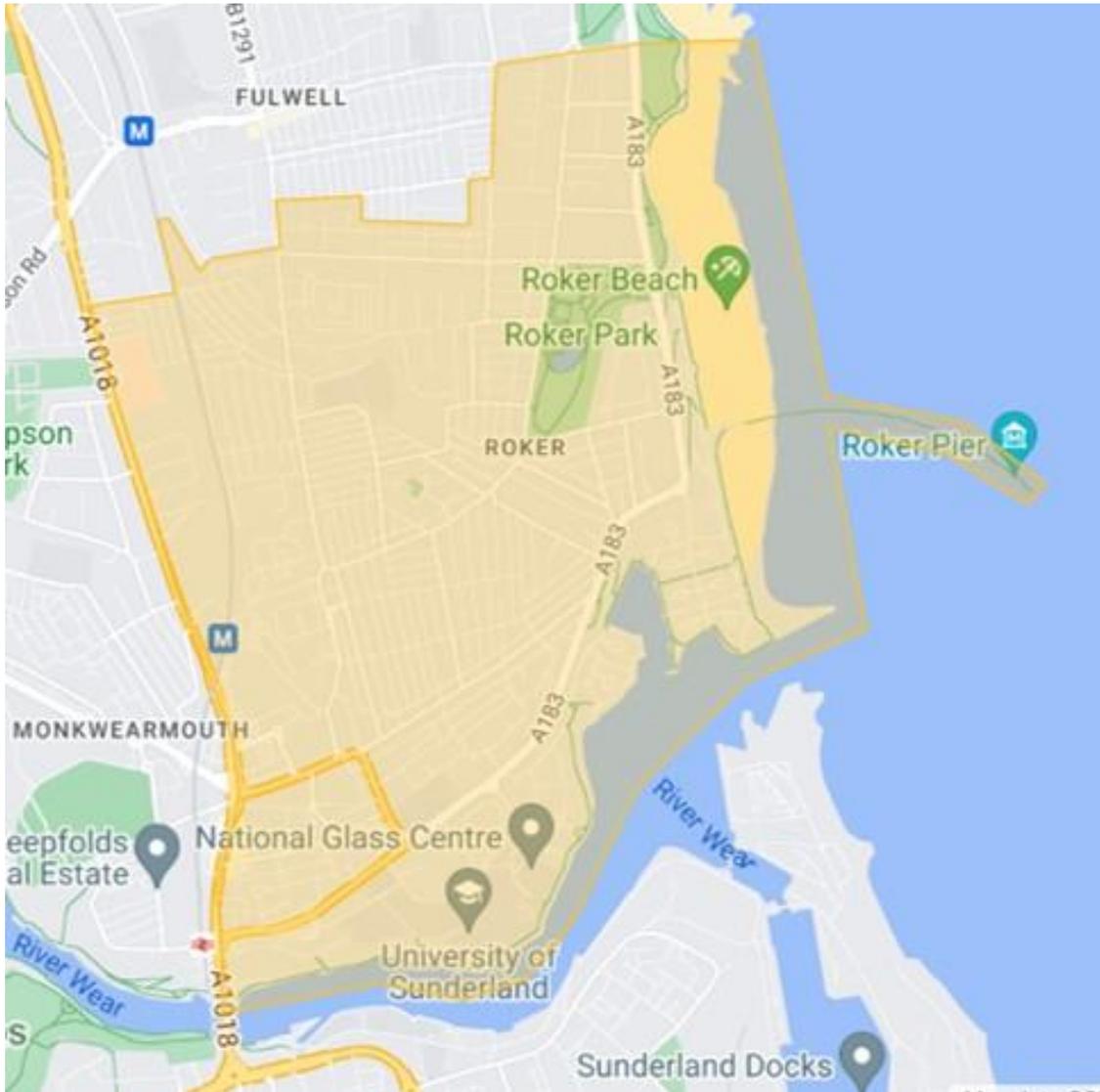
Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's adoption of Newcastle Road being the boundary between Fulwell and Southwick Ward, which was the subject of strong feelings and representation from residents living in the part of Fulwell between Newcastle Road and the railway line. We urge the Commission to continue to use this boundary in its final recommendations.

We also welcome the revised boundary to the south of Fulwell Ward and the north of Roker Ward which makes sure most parts of Roker and included in the Roker Ward, as well as equalising the number of electors between the Roker and Fulwell Wards.

However, in response to feedback from residents we would ask that the Commission changes the boundary between Fulwell and Roker Wards slightly, by using Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road as the boundary. This would ensure that streets which consider themselves as being an integral part of Roker, including Peareth Road, Stanhope Road, Park Avenue and Clifton Road, are included in the Roker Ward. This would also preserve the existing boundary between wards in this area, providing continuity and helping residents to continue to understand where the boundary lies in this community where there is no hard and fast border.

Our suggested alternative Roker Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Fulwell Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1B1RwHN7lfeV6BwuIDiXcr5CEYwS0rd4&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Roker Ward with Fulwell Ward

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Fulwell' which represents the largest single community in the ward.

4.8 Proposed Roker Ward

Boundaries:

We largely agree with the Commission's proposed boundaries between the Roker, Fulwell and Southwick Wards. As outlined above in relation to the Fulwell Ward, we would urge the Commission to consider moving the streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from the Fulwell Ward into the Roker Ward.

This is because residents in these streets see themselves as a part of Roker, close to Roker Park and St Andrew's Church Roker, and would therefore be better suited to be in the Roker Ward.

This would also follow the existing boundary between the current Fulwell and St Peter's Wards, ensuring continuity of the ward boundary.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed name of 'Roker' which is simple and reflects the single largest community in the ward.

4.9 Proposed Southwick Ward

Boundaries:

We are content with the Commission's proposed boundaries for the Southwick Ward, particularly the use of Newcastle Road as a boundary between Southwick and Fulwell Wards.

Ward name:

We agree that 'Southwick' is the most straightforward name for this ward, representing the largest settlement within it.

South Sunderland

4.10 Proposed Doxford Park Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats welcome the proposed Doxford Park ward which include all parts of the wider Doxford Park area on both sides of Doxford Park Way, whilst respecting the settlement gaps and boundaries with the Silksworth and Tunstall Village areas.

We are happy to accept the Lakeside/Gilley Law area within the Doxford Park Ward, and welcome that this cohesive community is kept in tact and in one electoral ward rather than being split.

We would suggest that the allotments between Mill Hill Road and Silksworth Road are included in the Silksworth Ward, and they can only be accessed from Silksworth Ward and not from Doxford Park Ward.

We are urging the commission to use the newly-built Rotary Road as the boundary between Ryhope and Doxford Park Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, and would be easily understood by local residents.

We are also concerned that the boundary in this area as proposed by the Commission does not make sense as a small section to the east of Rotary Road (the new Lufton Close and Cedar Way development) which can only be accessed from Rockcliffe in Ryhope will be separated from the rest of the community in Doxford Park Ward by Rotary Road which is a new, arterial link road with steep sides and which cannot be crossed by pedestrians (see figure below).

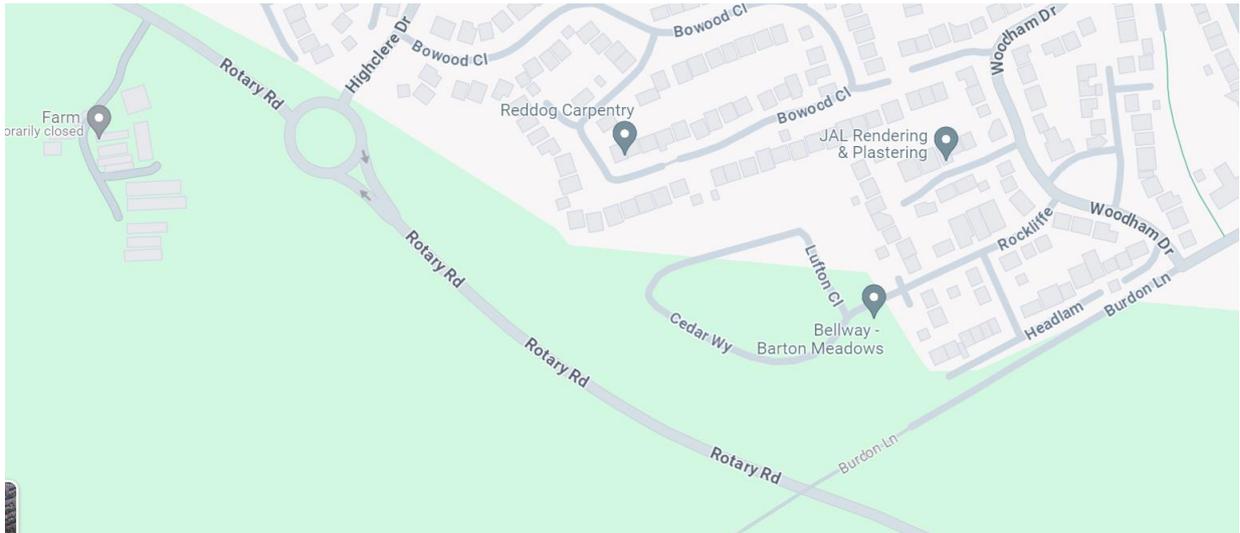


Figure: The new Cedar Way and Lufton Close development east of Rotary Road, which we believe should be included in Ryhope Ward and not Doxford Park Ward.

Our suggested alternative Doxford Park Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Ryhope Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1eAJQKaRBZX3oaPVRIO4OBZ0QM-9EBtk&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Doxford Park Ward

Ward name:

We agree that 'Doxford Park' is a simple, catch-all term for this area of the city, reflecting the name of the area of housing as well as an actual park in the ward. As outlined in our previous submission, we believe 'Doxford Park' is a better name than 'Doxford' as it represents an actual place. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Doxford Park'.

4.11 Proposed Grangetown Ward

Boundaries:

We agree that the Commission's revised proposals for the Grangetown Ward represent a cohesive community centred around Grangetown and the neighbouring parts of Ashbrooke and Hill View. We agree that this makes sense as a single community which shares facilities based around Grangetown shops, as well as sharing the same schools such as Southmoor Academy, Grangetown Primary and Hill View Infants and Juniors.

We are in agreement with the Commission's assessment that using Villette Road as a boundary is the best way to balance the statutory criteria, and ensure that Grangetown Primary School remains in Grangetown Ward, along with the southern part of the 'Long Streets' area between Villette Road and Spelter Works Road which sees itself as being part of Grangetown. Using Villette Road as a boundary is the only realistic option that would be easy to identify and explain. Other suburban roads like Gray Road or Mowbray Road to the north, or an arbitrary point halfway down the streets between Corporation Road and Percy Terrace to the South would have significant problems. We therefore ask the Commission continues to use Villette Road as boundary between Grangetown and Deptford & Hendon Wards.

Ward name:

As Grangetown is the single largest community in the proposed ward we agree that the ward should be named after Grangetown. The area of Ashbrooke is split across 3 wards and should not be included in this ward name in our opinion.

4.12 Proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the Commission's decision to retain the estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one ward. They are a cohesive set of communities, centred around the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon sandhills green space, which share community facilities, schools and good transport and community links between them.

Keeping these areas together has also been supported by many residents in the Commission's consultations to date.

We believe that the Commission's proposals improve on the current warding arrangements in this area by:

- (i) ensuring that all of Springwell estate is now in one ward, instead of Springwell Road being a ward boundary
- (ii) making sure that all parts of Grindon are now in one ward, with the Broadway Estate around Sutherland Drive together with Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive now being included with the rest of the community.

As outlined in more detail below in the section on St Chads Ward, we strongly urge the Commission to exclude a small part of the community of Humbledon (around Stratford Avenue, Shaftesbury Crescent and Shrewsbury Crescent) from the Grindon and Thorney Close Ward.

These streets are an intrinsic part of the community around Humbledon Hill (both Humbledon itself which straddles both sides of Durham Road (Scruton Avenue is as much a part of Humbledon as Shaftesbury and Shrewsbury Crescents) and Plains Farm (which also lies on Humbledon Hill). We believe that these streets should be in the proposed St Chads Ward with the rest of their local area.

This would be in keeping with the Commission's welcome proposals across the rest of Sunderland to make sure estates with clear and identifiable boundaries are kept together in one ward rather than being split across two or more wards (Ford Estate, Hylton Lane Estate, Springwell, Hollycarrside, Silksworth etc.).

We also believe that including this area with Grindon and Thorney Close would be detrimental to the way residents in that part of Humbledon will be represented, as they will be a small part of the ward that is geographically and culturally separate to the rest of the community, and which would have competing interests in terms of grants for community facilities, use of different shops, green spaces, schools etc. to the vast majority of residents in the rest of the ward.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name which reflects the two largest estates at either side of the ward. Liberal Democrats believe this is a significant improvement on the proposed 'Sandhill' ward name which doesn't reflect an actual place and which causes confusion amongst residents. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Grindon & Thorney Close Ward' in the final proposals.

4.13 Proposed Ryhope Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed boundary which respects the boundary between the communities of Ryhope and Tunstall Village.

As outlined in response to the proposed Doxford Park Ward, we are encouraging the Commission to use Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and

Ryhope Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, which would be significant less confusing than the current boundary which includes a development site on either side of this arterial route which has already been built.

We believe that having residents on Cedar Way and Lufton Close represented in Doxford Park even though they are a part of Ryhope and can only be accessed from Ryhope would not be satisfactory.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name of 'Ryhope'.

4.14 Proposed Silksworth Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with proposals based on having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton areas west of the A19, then we would support the proposals outlined for a Silksworth Ward.

The ward includes all parts of the community of Silksworth, including those areas south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road, which residents are in favour of. However, we believe that the allotments between Cambridge Road and Mill Hill Road should be included in the Silksworth Ward as they are only accessible from roads in Silksworth and not from any streets in Doxford Park.

Ward name:

As this ward contains all of Tunstall Village including Tunstall Village Green, contains Tunstall Hills and includes the areas of housing known as Tunstall either side of Essen Way, we believe that it would be preferable for this ward to be known as 'Silksworth and Tunstall' to represent both communities in the proposed ward.

4.15 Proposed St Chad's Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be content with the St Chad's ward, subject to one small amendment.

At the moment the ward contains the entire communities of East and Middle Herrington, Farrington and Plains Farm, continuing the welcome trend in the Commission's recommendations of keeping entire estates and communities within one ward instead of splitting them.

However, under this proposal, the community of Humbledon is split across several wards. The part of Humbledon around Scruton Avenue, Seaforth Road, Highside Drive, Hipsburn Drive and Alpine Way is included in this ward along the neighbouring estate of Plains Farm which is also located on Humbledon Hill. Part of Durham Road

and the neighbouring streets of Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue are included in the Grindon & Thorney Close ward, whilst 104 – 134 Durham Road are included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward, together with Humbledon's shopping parade on Etrick Grove.

Liberal Democrats therefore propose a slight amendment so that all of Humbledon is included in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We propose a boundary running to the rear of houses on Shaftesbury Crescent, behind No. 39 Etrick Grove and to the rear of Bede College.

This would ensure that all parts of Humbledon on both sides of Durham Road are included in the St Chad's Ward; would make sure that Humbledon shops and neighbouring properties are not an outlier in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward; and also ensures that all of Barnes Park is contained within the Barnes & Thornhill Ward rather than being split across two wards which is beneficial for the reasons outlined at previous stages of the consultation.

The Commission has included all parts of East Herrington on both sides of Durham Road in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We believe that it would make sense to do so in the Humbledon area too.

In addition, including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in the proposed St Chad's Ward would also improve community cohesion and effective governance by local councillors. Residents in this area share shops and facilities with the rest of the Humbledon and Plains Farm area, including along Etrick Grove and shops at 179 – 185 Durham Road, north of Scruton Avenue. Residents in this area would use Plains Farm Primary School and make use of community facilities at Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre.

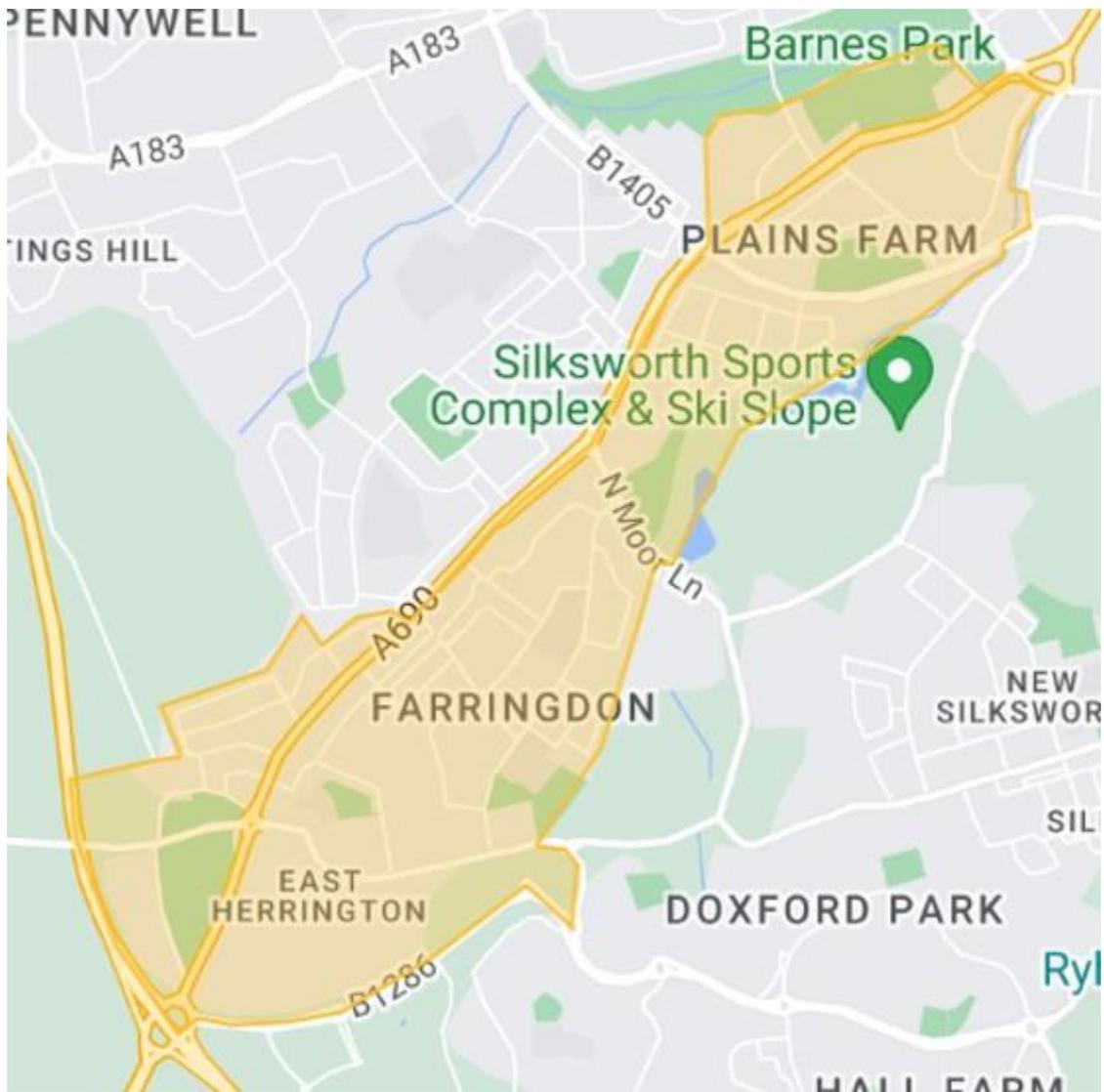
People living in this part of Humbledon do not share much in common with the Grindon, Thorney Close and Springwell areas, who attend different schools at Sandhill View, St Cuthberts, Grindon Infants, Thorney Close Primary School and Hasting Hill Academy. In addition, residents across the Springwell, Grindon and Thorney Close areas use community centres, facilities and groups at the Grindon Young People's Centre and Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. As discussed above, these facilities are not utilised by residents in the Humbledon area.

We fear that the Commission's proposal would mean that people living in the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area would be included in a ward with areas in which they have very little in common and do not share community facilities. We do not believe that this would lead to effective or efficient governance.

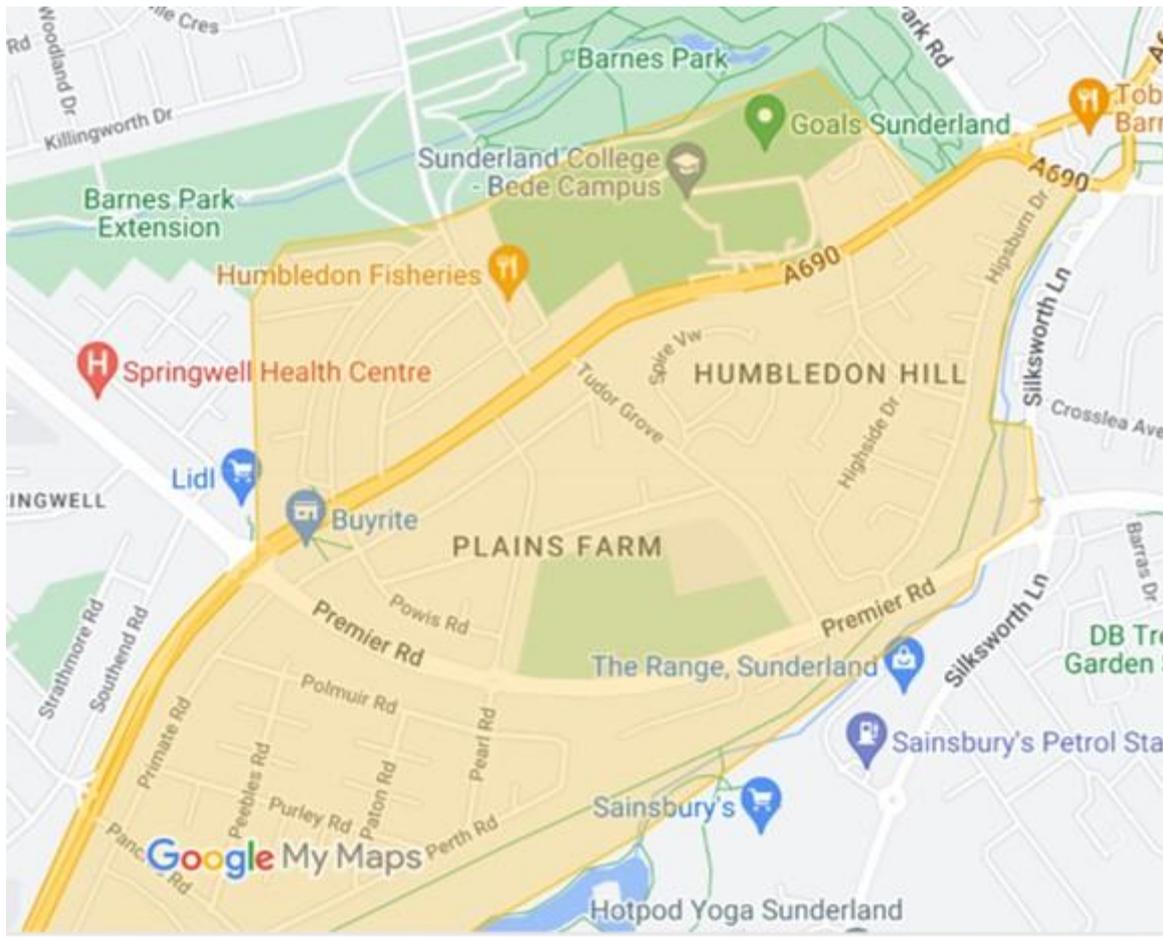
We therefore ask the Commission to include all parts of Humbledon in the St Chad's Ward by including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in this ward, together with neighbouring parts of Durham Road and Etrick Grove.

Our suggested amended boundary to this ward is detailed in the figures below. The map is available to view at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=18wSbEWXNNAAtKwxxq8iGALU1IJ1oPsVs&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for the St Chad's Ward



A more detailed view of the proposed revised boundary in the Humbledon Hill area.

Ward name:

As mentioned in Liberal Democrats submissions at previous stages of the process, we do not believe that ward names should be named after parishes, churches or places that do not actually exist.

Whilst acknowledging the difficulty in finding a name that accurately describes the communities in this ward, Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that naming the ward after actual communities it contains is far preferable than a name that means nothing to residents in the ward.

We therefore propose 'Farringdon and Humbledon' as a ward name, reflecting the estate of Farringdon in the south and Humbledon Hill to the north which covers both the Humbledon area itself around the Shaftesbury Avenue and Seaforth Road area, as well as Plains Farm estate which also lies on Humbledon Hill.

If the Commission does not adopt Liberal Democrat proposals to include the Shaftesbury Crescent/Stamford Avenue/Shrewsbury Crescent part of Humbledon in this ward and instead retains them in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, then we would not suggesting including Humbledon in the ward name, as this would mean a large part of Humbledon is not included in the ward of the same name. We therefore suggest 'Plains Farm and Farringdon' would be a better ward name in these circumstances.

Houghton and Hetton

4.16 Proposed Copt Hill Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would be happy to accept this proposed ward which has a clear and identifiable boundary along the A690.

Ward name:

We believe the name 'Copt Hill' to be one which alienates residents as there is no such community as 'Copt Hill'. Whilst it is the name of a local hill and a public house, we do not believe that it adequately reflects the communities in Hetton, Houghton and Rainton Bridge that are contained within the ward.

We do not believe that continuing to have a ward named 'Copt Hill' has any merit, and therefore ask that the Commission chooses an alternative name that better reflects the areas contained within it and helps residents to easily identify the ward in which they live and therefore the councillors that represent them.

Liberal Democrats believe that 'Houghton East' would be a more suitable name, as this ward contains a large portion of the town of Houghton le Spring east of the A690. Whilst the ward also contains Rainton Bridge and the Hetton Downs area of Hetton-le-Hole, both of these communities see themselves as part of the wider Houghton area, have a Houghton postal address and post code, and have affinity with that town.

We therefore believe that the name 'Houghton East' or 'Houghton East and Hetton Downs' would be the most appropriate name for this ward.

4.17 Proposed Herrington & Newbottle Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be happy to accept this ward containing the communities of West Herrington, New Herrington, Herrington Burn, Philadelphia, Newbottle and norther parts of Houghton.

Ward name:

We believe that this ward name would create a lot of confusion and needs to be adapted.

This is because if someone refers to living in 'Herrington' this usually means 'East Herrington' which is not a part of this ward. Herrington only referring to West Herrington/New Herrington but not East Herrington would create confusion as to which ward people live in and which councillors represent them.

Liberal Democrats would prefer the ward name to be simply 'Newbottle' which refers to the community in the geographic centre of the ward and which neighbours all other parts of it.

Alternatively 'West Herrington and Newbottle' or 'Houghton North and Newbottle' would be more appropriate and less confusing than including just the name 'Herrington' in this ward when it does not include East Herrington.

4.18 Proposed Hetton Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would support the boundaries in this area as proposed. We believe that the Commission's proposal to use Hetton Burn as a boundary better reflects the division of communities than the existing boundary in this area along Houghton Road (A182).

Ward name:

We agree that 'Hetton' is a simple, clear and appropriate name for this ward.

4.19 Proposed Houghton Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would support a ward as proposed containing parts of Houghton west of the A690 together with neighbouring communities of Fence Houses and East Rainton.

Ward name:

Whilst this ward is based largely on the existing Houghton Ward, we believe that continuing with the name 'Houghton Ward' will create confusion as large parts of the town of Houghton are included in the proposed Copt Hill and Newbottle wards.

People living in the town of Houghton but in those two wards would understandably think that they live in Houghton Ward if there is a ward of that name.

Instead of following the existing name of Houghton for the sake of continuity, we believe that an alternative name would be preferable to distinguish this ward from others in the Houghton area.

'Houghton West' or 'Fence Houses and East Rainton' would be clearer names in our opinion.

4.20 Proposed Penshaw & Shiney Row Ward

Boundaries:

We would support the boundaries as proposed for this ward which follows clear and identifiable boundaries to separate the Shiney Row and Penshaw areas to neighbouring communities to the south of them.

Ward name:

We are happy to have both distinct communities of Penshaw and Shiney Row included in the ward name for the district which contains them both.

Washington

4.21 Proposed Albany & Biddick Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposed Albany and Biddick Ward which ensures that distinct village communities are not split between wards, and agree with the Commission's inclusion of Biddick School in the ward of the same name.

Ward name:

We support the ward name reflecting large communities at either end of the ward, and believe that naming the ward after villages is preferable to naming Washington ward after compass points as this ensures that it is easier for residents to identify and have affinity with the ward in which they live.

4.22 Proposed Ayton & Springwell Village Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposal for distinct village communities in the west of Washington to be represented together in a ward.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed ward name, including reference to 'Springwell Village' to avoid confusion with Springwell estate in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward.

4.23 Proposed Barmston & Sulgrave Ward

Boundaries:

We are happy to support the proposed boundaries in this ward which keep village communities whole rather than splitting them across ward boundaries.

Ward name:

We support the proposed ward name for this ward, believing it to be preferable to a name reflecting a compass point.

4.24 Proposed Concord Ward

Boundaries:

We believe that the boundary makes sense as it puts neighbouring communities in the north of Washington in a single ward, representing a sensible and cohesive area.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed name of Concord Ward reflecting the largest single community in the ward.

4.25 Proposed Riverside Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed boundaries in this area, bringing together communities in the southern part of Washington together with the neighbouring estate of Mount Pleasant on the south side of Fatfield Bridge.

Ward name:

We would like the Commission to rethink the proposed name of 'Riverside Ward'. The name Riverside does not reflect a real or identifiable community. We believe that this would make it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

The name 'Riverside' is also problematic because many parts of the city of Sunderland are thought of as being on the riverside along the length of the River Wear. Specifically, the development of the former Vaux brewery site and neighbouring areas of Deptford and Ayres Quay on the outskirts of the city centre is known and is being marketed as 'Riverside Sunderland'. Further details are available at www.riversidesunderland.com .

We therefore believe that a 'Riverside Ward' would create confusion as to where it is located and which communities are represented within it, particularly as an area of the city centre has the same name.

Liberal Democrats ask the Commission to re-name the ward after the community of Fatfield. Not only is this community at the heart of the proposed ward, it is also the name of the bridge which links the Washington side of the River Wear with the Mount Pleasant area on the southern side.

Residents in Mount Pleasant are aware of their proximity to Fatfield and that they share Fatfield Bridge with communities in Washington north of the River. Calling this area 'Fatfield Ward' would mean that communities on both sides of the River can identify the ward and have affinity with its name.

5. Merits of reverting to proposals for a Herrington Ward, Tunstall & Humbledon Ward and Silksworth & Farringdon Ward

Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that there is merit in reverting to the previous proposals in terms of warding arrangements that included a 'Tunstall and Humbledon' Ward, a 'Silksworth and Farringdon' Ward and a cross-A19 'Herrington' Ward.

As outlined in our previous submissions, we believe that East, Middle, West and New Herrington all share community links and facilities, and that there are several walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them. These communities share community groups, youth groups like Scouts and Guides, doctors surgeries, open and recreational spaces and public houses like The Stackyard and The Stables. There are good walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them.

We also continue to believe that a Silksworth and Farringdon Ward has merit as a cohesive set of adjacent communities containing Silksworth, Gilley Law/Lakeside and Farringdon. We believe that the numerous resident submissions during the last consultation to keep Silksworth in one ward rather than being split across two could be achieved by including the streets south of Tunstall Village Road in the Silksworth and Farringdon Ward, rather than including the Tunstall/Ashbrooke area as far north as Queen Alexandra Road. The numerous submissions from residents requested that all parts of Silksworth either side of Tunstall Village Road were included in one ward, rather than any objections to being in a ward shared with Farringdon.

Returning to this pattern of warding would also ensure a fairer distribution of electors across the city. We have some concerns that having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton area exclusively east of the A19 means a significant number of those wards are significantly under-quota, with most of them being at -10%.

In contrast, all wards east of the A19 and south of the River Wear in Sunderland are above quota, with Grangetown, Deptford & Hendon and Pallion & Ford wards all at 10%. We believe there is merit in re-introducing a Herrington Ward including East, Middle, New and West Herrington, together with Herrington Burn, Newbottle and Philadelphia that would represent a cohesive community and ensure that there is a better distribution of electors across all 25 wards in the city.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, we ask the Commission to consider the merits of returning to a warding pattern that includes a cross-A19 Herrington Ward. If the Commission decides not to do so, then we believe the proposed wards would be significantly improved by:

- Removing the small part of Humbledon from Grindon and Thorney Close Ward and transferring it to the St Chads Ward.
- Ensuring Lufton Close and Cedar Way are included in Ryhope Ward instead of Doxford Park Ward

- Making sure all streets which see themselves as Roker are included in Roker Ward by slightly altering the boundary between Roker and Fulwell Wards along Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road.

Warding arrangements in the Sunderland City Council area Consultation on proposals

Wearside Liberal Democrats submission April 2024

1. Introduction

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.

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

2. Summary

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.

We particularly welcome changes that have been made since the last set of proposals were published, notably:

- The inclusion of the North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue areas in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward to ensure all of High Barnes is represented by one set of councillors.
- The proposal to ensure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is represented by one set of councillors in the Pennywell & South Hylton Ward.
- The Commission's proposals for the boundary between Pennywell and Ford Estate, ensuring that all roads beginning with 'P' are represented by Pennywell councillors and all roads beginning with 'F' are represented by Ford councillors.
- The inclusion of Hollycarrside estate in a single ward, so that the entire community is represented by one set of councillors.

We would be happy for the proposals to be adopted as final recommendations, subject to some minor changes to a few ward boundaries, namely:

- Transferring the area of Humbledon around Stamford Avenue, Shrewsbury Crescent and Shaftesbury Crescent from Grindon & Thorney Close Ward to St Chads Ward; ensuring that all of Humbledon is included in one ward rather than being split across two.
- Transferring streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from Fulwell Ward to Roker Ward, to ensure all parts of Roker are in Roker Ward.

- Using Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and Ryhope Wards, which is an obvious and identifiable boundary, so that Lufton Close and Cedar Way – which can only be accessed from Ryhope – are not isolated from the rest of their community by being the only bits of Ryhope and the only streets east of Rotary Road included in the Doxford Park Ward.

We have given comments on the proposed boundaries for each ward below, and have also made some suggested changes to several ward names.

We would also be content for the Commission revert to their original recommendations based around a cross-A19 ward in the Herrington area, a 'Tunstall & Humbledon' seat and a 'Silksworth & Farringdon Ward', believing that this arrangement also has merit.

3. Approach

We have split our submission into two parts. Firstly, we have provided comment and suggested minor amendments to the Commission's revised proposals to ensure better representation for communities in section 4 of this submission.

We have then expanded on the arguments for retaining the previous proposals in the Herrington, Farringdon, Silksworth, Tunstall and Humbledon areas of the city in section 5 of this submission.

4. Comments on the Commission's revised proposals

North-West Sunderland

4.1 Proposed Barnes & Thornhill Ward

Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's proposals for a Barnes & Thornhill Ward which contains a set of cohesive communities in the Barnes/High Barnes and Thornhill areas, together with parts of Ashbrooke that border Thornhill School.

These communities share a similar style of housing and share the same shops, schools and local amenities.

The inclusion of streets in High Barnes that are north of The Broadway (North Hall Drive, Brierfield Grove, Broadmayne Avenue) is particularly welcome, ensuring that the entire community of High Barnes is included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward and making sure that those streets share the same set of councillors as the rest of their community.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Barnes & Thornhill and its boundaries in its final recommendations.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed ward name of Barnes & Thornhill which represents both parts of the ward.

4.2 Proposed Hylton Castle Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposals in the Hylton Castle, Castletown and Town End Farm area.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that Hylton Castle is an appropriate name for the ward, reflecting the castle itself and Hylton Castle housing estate. Alternative proposals including the existing name of 'Castle' are confusing for residents as it does not represent an actual location or a specific castle, therefore making it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

4.3 Proposed Pallion & Ford Ward

Boundaries:

Wearside Lib Dems believe that the Commission's revised proposals for a Pallion & Ford Ward are an improvement on earlier proposals. The new boundaries ensure that coherent communities are retained together in a single ward and that locally recognised and respected boundaries based on streets starting with different letters of the alphabet.

The revised proposal will be welcomed by residents as both parts of Ford Estate either side of Front Road will now be united in a single ward.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Pallion & Ford Ward in the final recommendations.

Ward name:

The revised name of Pallion & Ford represents to the largest communities in the ward. We believe that this is appropriate given that the new ward contains all of the Ford estate area. As Millfield is split across two wards, we do not believe that it should be included in the ward name.

4.4 Proposed Pennywell & South Hylton Ward

Boundaries:

As with the revised Pallion & Ford ward, we welcome the Commission's revised proposals in the Pennywell area. The new boundaries ensure that all streets in Pennywell are represented in the same ward, and that the locally recognised boundary between Pennywell and Ford is respected by the ward boundary.

Similarly, the changes to make sure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is united in one ward will be welcomed by the local community. We urge the Commission to retain the boundaries for this ward as proposed.

Ward name:

Along with other political parties represented on the Council, we believe that South Hylton deserves to be represented in the ward name as well as Pennywell in recognition of its status as an independent village community aside from the neighbouring estate of Pennywell. We support the Commission's proposal to name the ward 'Pennywell and South Hylton'.

4.5 Proposed Redhouse Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal which keeps the neighbouring and similar communities of Red House, Downhill, Wear View and Witherwack together, alongside part of Town End Farm.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats wholeheartedly agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Redhouse Ward' reflecting the biggest single community in the ward. This is a well known and identifiable part of North Sunderland and will help residents in Redhouse and the neighbouring estates to be able to identify their councillors.

We strongly oppose suggestions for retaining the existing 'Redhill' ward name which is a portmanteau that doesn't reflect a real or identifiable place name. Similarly, 'St Cuthberts' as a ward name would not be helpful in describing an area or helping residents to be able to identify their ward and local councillors.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed 'Redhouse' ward name.

North-East Sunderland

4.6 Proposed Deptford & Hendon Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal for a ward based on communities bordering and including the city centre, which share similar needs, issues and community facilities.

The proposed boundaries follow obvious and identifiable boundaries along the railway line and main roads in the area.

We agree that Villette Road is an easy to understand boundary between the southern part of the Deptford and Hendon Ward and the northern part of the

Grangetown Ward; and is superior to any of the nearby alternatives which would be unclear and would not be easily to identify for local people.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that 'Deptford and Hendon' is the most suitable name for this ward, reflecting two communities at either side of it. Deptford is an identifiable place which is experiencing significant regeneration and which will soon include large areas of new housing.

4.7 Proposed Fulwell Ward

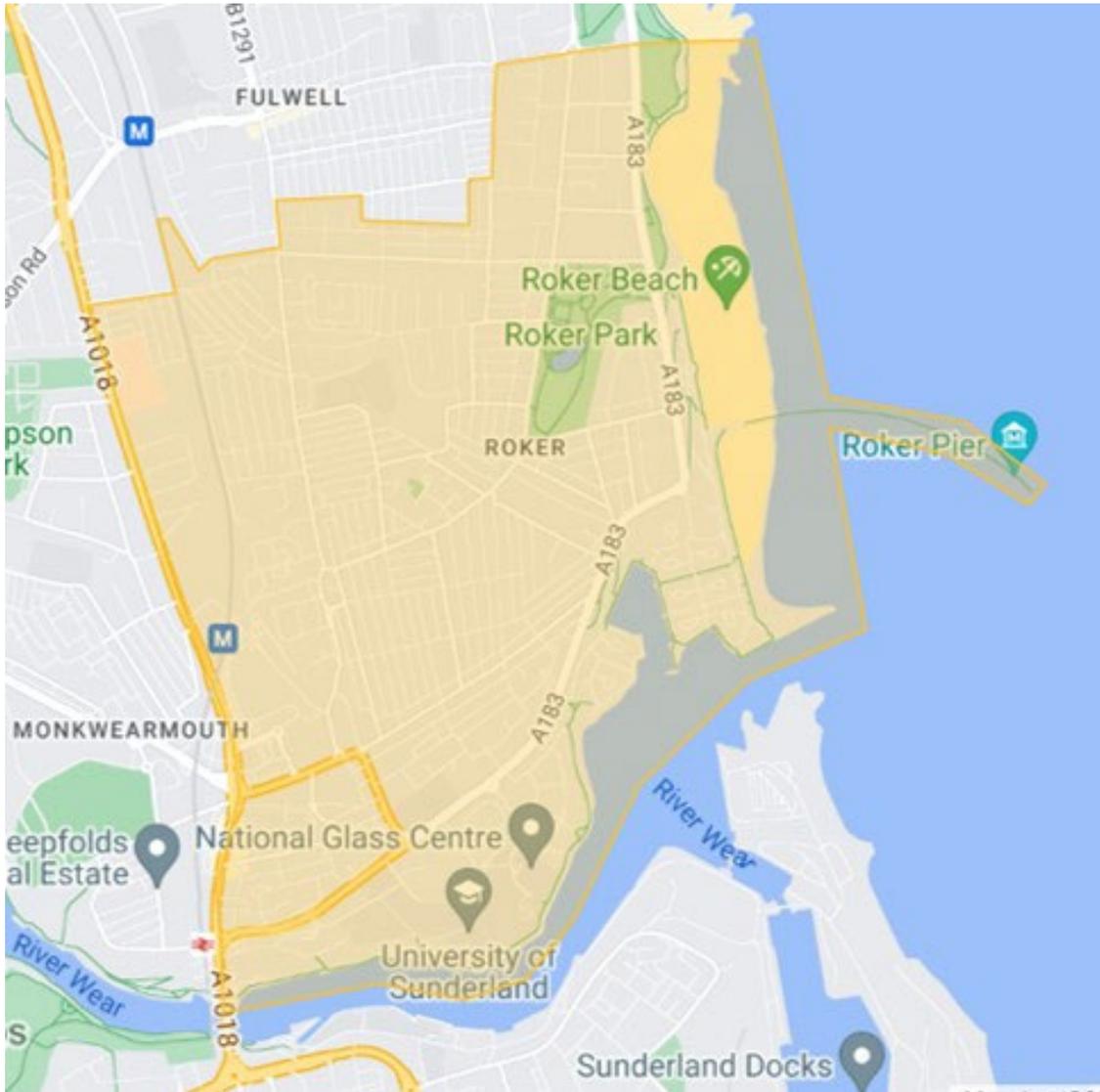
Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's adoption of Newcastle Road being the boundary between Fulwell and Southwick Ward, which was the subject of strong feelings and representation from residents living in the part of Fulwell between Newcastle Road and the railway line. We urge the Commission to continue to use this boundary in its final recommendations.

We also welcome the revised boundary to the south of Fulwell Ward and the north of Roker Ward which makes sure most parts of Roker and included in the Roker Ward, as well as equalising the number of electors between the Roker and Fulwell Wards.

However, in response to feedback from residents we would ask that the Commission changes the boundary between Fulwell and Roker Wards slightly, by using Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road as the boundary. This would ensure that streets which consider themselves as being an integral part of Roker, including Peareth Road, Stanhope Road, Park Avenue and Clifton Road, are included in the Roker Ward. This would also preserve the existing boundary between wards in this area, providing continuity and helping residents to continue to understand where the boundary lies in this community where there is no hard and fast border.

Our suggested alternative Roker Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Fulwell Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1B1RwHN7lfeV6BwuIDiXcr5CEYwS0rd4&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Roker Ward with Fulwell Ward

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Fulwell' which represents the largest single community in the ward.

4.8 Proposed Roker Ward

Boundaries:

We largely agree with the Commission's proposed boundaries between the Roker, Fulwell and Southwick Wards. As outlined above in relation to the Fulwell Ward, we would urge the Commission to consider moving the streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from the Fulwell Ward into the Roker Ward.

This is because residents in these streets see themselves as a part of Roker, close to Roker Park and St Andrew's Church Roker, and would therefore be better suited to be in the Roker Ward.

This would also follow the existing boundary between the current Fulwell and St Peter's Wards, ensuring continuity of the ward boundary.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed name of 'Roker' which is simple and reflects the single largest community in the ward.

4.9 Proposed Southwick Ward

Boundaries:

We are content with the Commission's proposed boundaries for the Southwick Ward, particularly the use of Newcastle Road as a boundary between Southwick and Fulwell Wards.

Ward name:

We agree that 'Southwick' is the most straightforward name for this ward, representing the largest settlement within it.

South Sunderland

4.10 Proposed Doxford Park Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats welcome the proposed Doxford Park ward which include all parts of the wider Doxford Park area on both sides of Doxford Park Way, whilst respecting the settlement gaps and boundaries with the Silksworth and Tunstall Village areas.

We are happy to accept the Lakeside/Gilley Law area within the Doxford Park Ward, and welcome that this cohesive community is kept in tact and in one electoral ward rather than being split.

We would suggest that the allotments between Mill Hill Road and Silksworth Road are included in the Silksworth Ward, and they can only be accessed from Silksworth Ward and not from Doxford Park Ward.

We are urging the commission to use the newly-built Rotary Road as the boundary between Ryhope and Doxford Park Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, and would be easily understood by local residents.

We are also concerned that the boundary in this area as proposed by the Commission does not make sense as a small section to the east of Rotary Road (the new Lufton Close and Cedar Way development) which can only be accessed from Rockliffe in Ryhope will be separated from the rest of the community in Doxford Park Ward by Rotary Road which is a new, arterial link road with steep sides and which cannot be crossed by pedestrians (see figure below).

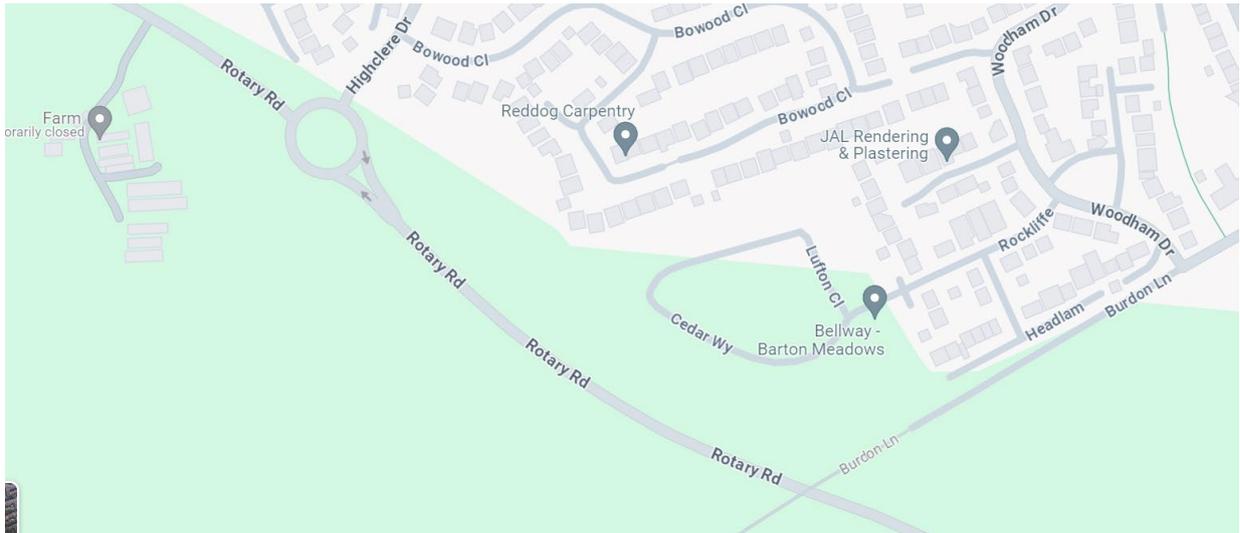


Figure: The new Cedar Way and Lufton Close development east of Rotary Road, which we believe should be included in Ryhope Ward and not Doxford Park Ward.

Our suggested alternative Doxford Park Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Ryhope Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1eAJQKaRBZX3oaPVRIO4OBZ0QM-9EBtk&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Doxford Park Ward

Ward name:

We agree that 'Doxford Park' is a simple, catch-all term for this area of the city, reflecting the name of the area of housing as well as an actual park in the ward. As outlined in our previous submission, we believe 'Doxford Park' is a better name than 'Doxford' as it represents an actual place. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Doxford Park'.

4.11 Proposed Grangetown Ward

Boundaries:

We agree that the Commission's revised proposals for the Grangetown Ward represent a cohesive community centred around Grangetown and the neighbouring parts of Ashbrooke and Hill View. We agree that this makes sense as a single community which shares facilities based around Grangetown shops, as well as sharing the same schools such as Southmoor Academy, Grangetown Primary and Hill View Infants and Juniors.

We are in agreement with the Commission's assessment that using Vilette Road as a boundary is the best way to balance the statutory criteria, and ensure that Grangetown Primary School remains in Grangetown Ward, along with the southern part of the 'Long Streets' area between Vilette Road and Spelter Works Road which sees itself as being part of Grangetown. Using Vilette Road as a boundary is the only realistic option that would be easy to identify and explain. Other suburban roads like Gray Road or Mowbray Road to the north, or an arbitrary point halfway down the streets between Corporation Road and Percy Terrace to the South would have significant problems. We therefore ask the Commission continues to use Vilette Road as boundary between Grangetown and Deptford & Hendon Wards.

Ward name:

As Grangetown is the single largest community in the proposed ward we agree that the ward should be named after Grangetown. The area of Ashbrooke is split across 3 wards and should not be included in this ward name in our opinion.

4.12 Proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the Commission's decision to retain the estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one ward. They are a cohesive set of communities, centred around the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon sandhills green space, which share community facilities, schools and good transport and community links between them.

Keeping these areas together has also been supported by many residents in the Commission's consultations to date.

We believe that the Commission's proposals improve on the current warding arrangements in this area by:

- (i) ensuring that all of Springwell estate is now in one ward, instead of Springwell Road being a ward boundary
- (ii) making sure that all parts of Grindon are now in one ward, with the Broadway Estate around Sutherland Drive together with Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive now being included with the rest of the community.

As outlined in more detail below in the section on St Chads Ward, we strongly urge the Commission to exclude a small part of the community of Humbledon (around Stratford Avenue, Shaftesbury Crescent and Shrewsbury Crescent) from the Grindon and Thorney Close Ward.

These streets are an intrinsic part of the community around Humbledon Hill (both Humbledon itself which straddles both sides of Durham Road (Scruton Avenue is as much a part of Humbledon as Shaftesbury and Shrewsbury Crescents) and Plains Farm (which also lies on Humbledon Hill). We believe that these streets should be in the proposed St Chads Ward with the rest of their local area.

This would be in keeping with the Commission's welcome proposals across the rest of Sunderland to make sure estates with clear and identifiable boundaries are kept together in one ward rather than being split across two or more wards (Ford Estate, Hylton Lane Estate, Springwell, Hollycarrside, Silksworth etc.).

We also believe that including this area with Grindon and Thorney Close would be detrimental to the way residents in that part of Humbledon will be represented, as they will be a small part of the ward that is geographically and culturally separate to the rest of the community, and which would have competing interests in terms of grants for community facilities, use of different shops, green spaces, schools etc. to the vast majority of residents in the rest of the ward.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name which reflects the two largest estates at either side of the ward. Liberal Democrats believe this is a significant improvement on the proposed 'Sandhill' ward name which doesn't reflect an actual place and which causes confusion amongst residents. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Grindon & Thorney Close Ward' in the final proposals.

4.13 Proposed Ryhope Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed boundary which respects the boundary between the communities of Ryhope and Tunstall Village.

As outlined in response to the proposed Doxford Park Ward, we are encouraging the Commission to use Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and

Ryhope Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, which would be significant less confusing than the current boundary which includes a development site on either side of this arterial route which has already been built.

We believe that having residents on Cedar Way and Lufton Close represented in Doxford Park even though they are a part of Ryhope and can only be accessed from Ryhope would not be satisfactory.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name of 'Ryhope'.

4.14 Proposed Silksworth Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with proposals based on having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton areas west of the A19, then we would support the proposals outlined for a Silksworth Ward.

The ward includes all parts of the community of Silksworth, including those areas south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road, which residents are in favour of. However, we believe that the allotments between Cambridge Road and Mill Hill Road should be included in the Silksworth Ward as they are only accessible from roads in Silksworth and not from any streets in Doxford Park.

Ward name:

As this ward contains all of Tunstall Village including Tunstall Village Green, contains Tunstall Hills and includes the areas of housing known as Tunstall either side of Essen Way, we believe that it would be preferable for this ward to be known as 'Silksworth and Tunstall' to represent both communities in the proposed ward.

4.15 Proposed St Chad's Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be content with the St Chad's ward, subject to one small amendment.

At the moment the ward contains the entire communities of East and Middle Herrington, Farrington and Plains Farm, continuing the welcome trend in the Commission's recommendations of keeping entire estates and communities within one ward instead of splitting them.

However, under this proposal, the community of Humbledon is split across several wards. The part of Humbledon around Scruton Avenue, Seaforth Road, Highside Drive, Hipsburn Drive and Alpine Way is included in this ward along the neighbouring estate of Plains Farm which is also located on Humbledon Hill. Part of Durham Road

and the neighbouring streets of Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue are included in the Grindon & Thorney Close ward, whilst 104 – 134 Durham Road are included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward, together with Humbledon's shopping parade on Ettrick Grove.

Liberal Democrats therefore propose a slight amendment so that all of Humbledon is included in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We propose a boundary running to the rear of houses on Shaftesbury Crescent, behind No. 39 Ettrick Grove and to the rear of Bede College.

This would ensure that all parts of Humbledon on both sides of Durham Road are included in the St Chad's Ward; would make sure that Humbledon shops and neighbouring properties are not an outlier in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward; and also ensures that all of Barnes Park is contained within the Barnes & Thornhill Ward rather than being split across two wards which is beneficial for the reasons outlined at previous stages of the consultation.

The Commission has included all parts of East Herrington on both sides of Durham Road in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We believe that it would make sense to do so in the Humbledon area too.

In addition, including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in the proposed St Chad's Ward would also improve community cohesion and effective governance by local councillors. Residents in this area share shops and facilities with the rest of the Humbledon and Plains Farm area, including along Ettrick Grove and shops at 179 – 185 Durham Road, north of Scruton Avenue. Residents in this area would use Plains Farm Primary School and make use of community facilities at Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre.

People living in this part of Humbledon do not share much in common with the Grindon, Thorney Close and Springwell areas, who attend different schools at Sandhill View, St Cuthberts, Grindon Infants, Thorney Close Primary School and Hasting Hill Academy. In addition, residents across the Springwell, Grindon and Thorney Close areas use community centres, facilities and groups at the Grindon Young People's Centre and Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. As discussed above, these facilities are not utilised by residents in the Humbledon area.

We fear that the Commission's proposal would mean that people living in the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area would be included in a ward with areas in which they have very little in common and do not share community facilities. We do not believe that this would lead to effective or efficient governance.

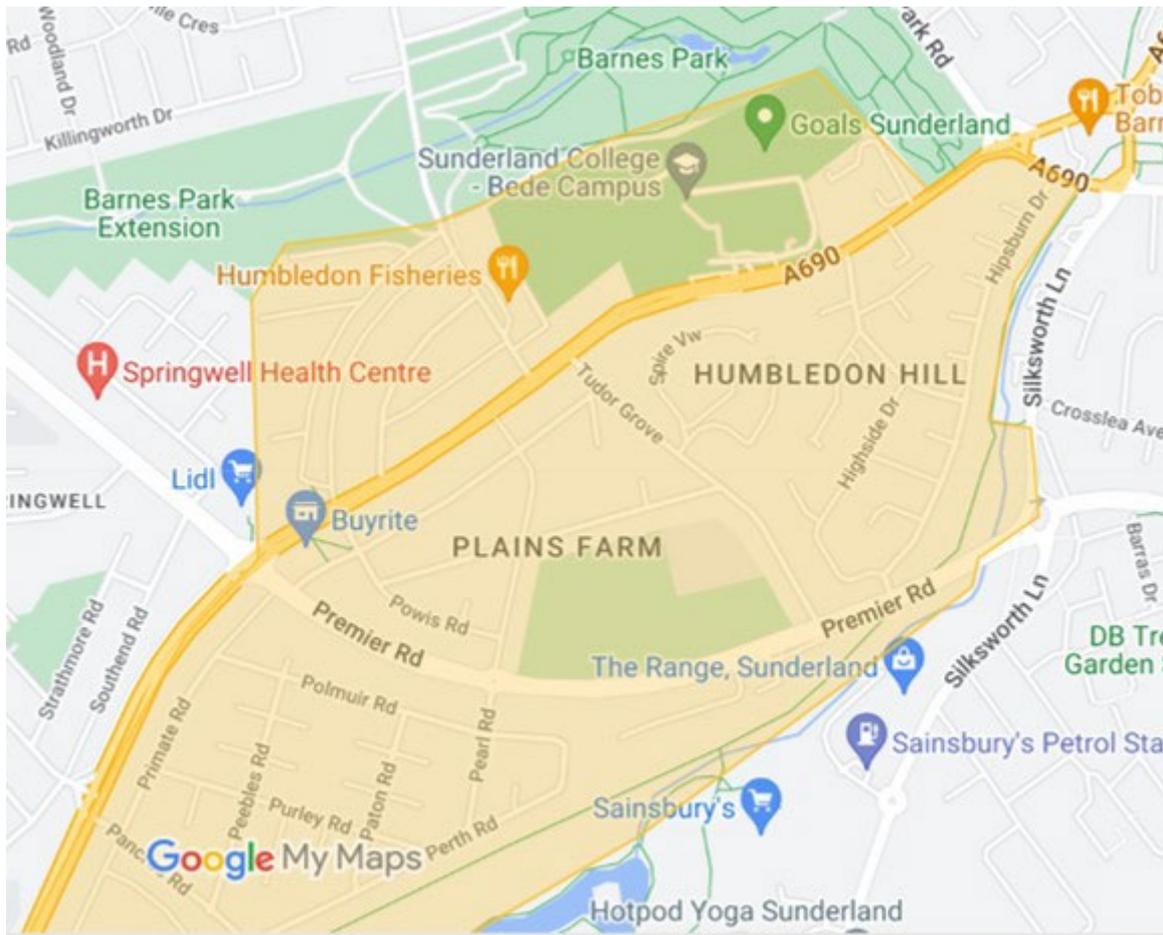
We therefore ask the Commission to include all parts of Humbledon in the St Chad's Ward by including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in this ward, together with neighbouring parts of Durham Road and Ettrick Grove.

Our suggested amended boundary to this ward is detailed in the figures below. The map is available to view at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=18wSbEWXNNAtKwxxq8iGALU1IJ1oPsVs&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for the St Chad's Ward



A more detailed view of the proposed revised boundary in the Humbledon Hill area.

Ward name:

As mentioned in Liberal Democrats submissions at previous stages of the process, we do not believe that ward names should be named after parishes, churches or places that do not actually exist.

Whilst acknowledging the difficulty in finding a name that accurately describes the communities in this ward, Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that naming the ward after actual communities it contains is far preferable than a name that means nothing to residents in the ward.

We therefore propose 'Farringdon and Humbledon' as a ward name, reflecting the estate of Farringdon in the south and Humbledon Hill to the north which covers both the Humbledon area itself around the Shaftesbury Avenue and Seaforth Road area, as well as Plains Farm estate which also lies on Humbledon Hill.

If the Commission does not adopt Liberal Democrat proposals to include the Shaftesbury Crescent/Stamford Avenue/Shrewsbury Crescent part of Humbledon in this ward and instead retains them in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, then we would not suggesting including Humbledon in the ward name, as this would mean a large part of Humbledon is not included in the ward of the same name. We therefore suggest 'Plains Farm and Farringdon' would be a better ward name in these circumstances.

Houghton and Hetton

4.16 Proposed Copt Hill Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would be happy to accept this proposed ward which has a clear and identifiable boundary along the A690.

Ward name:

We believe the name 'Copt Hill' to be one which alienates residents as there is no such community as 'Copt Hill'. Whilst it is the name of a local hill and a public house, we do not believe that it adequately reflects the communities in Hetton, Houghton and Rainton Bridge that are contained within the ward.

We do not believe that continuing to have a ward named 'Copt Hill' has any merit, and therefore ask that the Commission chooses an alternative name that better reflects the areas contained within it and helps residents to easily identify the ward in which they live and therefore the councillors that represent them.

Liberal Democrats believe that 'Houghton East' would be a more suitable name, as this ward contains a large portion of the town of Houghton le Spring east of the A690. Whilst the ward also contains Rainton Bridge and the Hetton Downs area of Hetton-le-Hole, both of these communities see themselves as part of the wider Houghton area, have a Houghton postal address and post code, and have affinity with that town.

We therefore believe that the name 'Houghton East' or 'Houghton East and Hetton Downs' would be the most appropriate name for this ward.

4.17 Proposed Herrington & Newbottle Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be happy to accept this ward containing the communities of West Herrington, New Herrington, Herrington Burn, Philadelphia, Newbottle and norther parts of Houghton.

Ward name:

We believe that this ward name would create a lot of confusion and needs to be adapted.

This is because if someone refers to living in 'Herrington' this usually means 'East Herrington' which is not a part of this ward. Herrington only referring to West Herrington/New Herrington but not East Herrington would create confusion as to which ward people live in and which councillors represent them.

Liberal Democrats would prefer the ward name to be simply 'Newbottle' which refers to the community in the geographic centre of the ward and which neighbours all other parts of it.

Alternatively 'West Herrington and Newbottle' or 'Houghton North and Newbottle' would be more appropriate and less confusing than including just the name 'Herrington' in this ward when it does not include East Herrington.

4.18 Proposed Hetton Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would support the boundaries in this area as proposed. We believe that the Commission's proposal to use Hetton Burn as a boundary better reflects the division of communities than the existing boundary in this area along Houghton Road (A182).

Ward name:

We agree that 'Hetton' is a simple, clear and appropriate name for this ward.

4.19 Proposed Houghton Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would support a ward as proposed containing parts of Houghton west of the A690 together with neighbouring communities of Fence Houses and East Rainton.

Ward name:

Whilst this ward is based largely on the existing Houghton Ward, we believe that continuing with the name 'Houghton Ward' will create confusion as large parts of the town of Houghton are included in the proposed Copt Hill and Newbottle wards.

People living in the town of Houghton but in those two wards would understandably think that they live in Houghton Ward if there is a ward of that name.

Instead of following the existing name of Houghton for the sake of continuity, we believe that an alternative name would be preferable to distinguish this ward from others in the Houghton area.

'Houghton West' or 'Fence Houses and East Rainton' would be clearer names in our opinion.

4.20 Proposed Penshaw & Shiney Row Ward

Boundaries:

We would support the boundaries as proposed for this ward which follows clear and identifiable boundaries to separate the Shiney Row and Penshaw areas to neighbouring communities to the south of them.

Ward name:

We are happy to have both distinct communities of Penshaw and Shiney Row included in the ward name for the district which contains them both.

Washington

4.21 Proposed Albany & Biddick Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposed Albany and Biddick Ward which ensures that distinct village communities are not split between wards, and agree with the Commission's inclusion of Biddick School in the ward of the same name.

Ward name:

We support the ward name reflecting large communities at either end of the ward, and believe that naming the ward after villages is preferable to naming Washington ward after compass points as this ensures that it is easier for residents to identify and have affinity with the ward in which they live.

4.22 Proposed Ayton & Springwell Village Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposal for distinct village communities in the west of Washington to be represented together in a ward.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed ward name, including reference to 'Springwell Village' to avoid confusion with Springwell estate in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward.

4.23 Proposed Barmston & Sulgrave Ward

Boundaries:

We are happy to support the proposed boundaries in this ward which keep village communities whole rather than splitting them across ward boundaries.

Ward name:

We support the proposed ward name for this ward, believing it to be preferable to a name reflecting a compass point.

4.24 Proposed Concord Ward

Boundaries:

We believe that the boundary makes sense as it puts neighbouring communities in the north of Washington in a single ward, representing a sensible and cohesive area.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed name of Concord Ward reflecting the largest single community in the ward.

4.25 Proposed Riverside Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed boundaries in this area, bringing together communities in the southern part of Washington together with the neighbouring estate of Mount Pleasant on the south side of Fatfield Bridge.

Ward name:

We would like the Commission to rethink the proposed name of 'Riverside Ward'. The name Riverside does not reflect a real or identifiable community. We believe that this would make it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

The name 'Riverside' is also problematic because many parts of the city of Sunderland are thought of as being on the riverside along the length of the River Wear. Specifically, the development of the former Vaux brewery site and neighbouring areas of Deptford and Ayres Quay on the outskirts of the city centre is known and is being marketed as 'Riverside Sunderland'. Further details are available at www.riversidesunderland.com .

We therefore believe that a 'Riverside Ward' would create confusion as to where it is located and which communities are represented within it, particularly as an area of the city centre has the same name.

Liberal Democrats ask the Commission to re-name the ward after the community of Fatfield. Not only is this community at the heart of the proposed ward, it is also the name of the bridge which links the Washington side of the River Wear with the Mount Pleasant area on the southern side.

Residents in Mount Pleasant are aware of their proximity to Fatfield and that they share Fatfield Bridge with communities in Washington north of the River. Calling this area 'Fatfield Ward' would mean that communities on both sides of the River can identify the ward and have affinity with its name.

5. Merits of reverting to proposals for a Herrington Ward, Tunstall & Humbledon Ward and Silksworth & Farringdon Ward

Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that there is merit in reverting to the previous proposals in terms of warding arrangements that included a 'Tunstall and Humbledon' Ward, a 'Silksworth and Farringdon' Ward and a cross-A19 'Herrington' Ward.

As outlined in our previous submissions, we believe that East, Middle, West and New Herrington all share community links and facilities, and that there are several walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them. These communities share community groups, youth groups like Scouts and Guides, doctors surgeries, open and recreational spaces and public houses like The Stackyard and The Stables. There are good walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them.

We also continue to believe that a Silksworth and Farringdon Ward has merit as a cohesive set of adjacent communities containing Silksworth, Gilley Law/Lakeside and Farringdon. We believe that the numerous resident submissions during the last consultation to keep Silksworth in one ward rather than being split across two could be achieved by including the streets south of Tunstall Village Road in the Silksworth and Farringdon Ward, rather than including the Tunstall/Ashbrooke area as far north as Queen Alexandra Road. The numerous submissions from residents requested that all parts of Silksworth either side of Tunstall Village Road were included in one ward, rather than any objections to being in a ward shared with Farringdon.

Returning to this pattern of warding would also ensure a fairer distribution of electors across the city. We have some concerns that having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton area exclusively east of the A19 means a significant number of those wards are significantly under-quota, with most of them being at -10%.

In contrast, all wards east of the A19 and south of the River Wear in Sunderland are above quota, with Grangetown, Deptford & Hendon and Pallion & Ford wards all at 10%. We believe there is merit in re-introducing a Herrington Ward including East, Middle, New and West Herrington, together with Herrington Burn, Newbottle and Philadelphia that would represent a cohesive community and ensure that there is a better distribution of electors across all 25 wards in the city.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, we ask the Commission to consider the merits of returning to a warding pattern that includes a cross-A19 Herrington Ward. If the Commission decides not to do so, then we believe the proposed wards would be significantly improved by:

- Removing the small part of Humbledon from Grindon and Thorney Close Ward and transferring it to the St Chads Ward.
- Ensuring Lufton Close and Cedar Way are included in Ryhope Ward instead of Doxford Park Ward

- Making sure all streets which see themselves as Roker are included in Roker Ward by slightly altering the boundary between Roker and Fulwell Wards along Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road.

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Paul Edgeworth

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Sunderland Liberal Democrats and Wearside Liberal Democrats (Political groups)

Comment text:

Good evening,

I am emailing to make a submission to the Commission's consultation on proposals for Sunderland City Council from the Liberal Democrats Group on Sunderland Council and Wearside Liberal Democrats jointly.

If you require the submission in a different format please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes, Paul

Cllr Paul Edgeworth

Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, Sunderland City Council

Attached Documents:

- sunderland-lgbce---consultation-on-revised-proposals---liberal-democrats-response-[22-04-24].docx
- sunderland-lgbce---consultation-on-revised-proposals---liberal-democrats-response-[22-04-24].pdf

Warding arrangements in the Sunderland City Council area Consultation on proposals

Wearside Liberal Democrats submission April 2024

1. Introduction

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.

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

2. Summary

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.

We particularly welcome changes that have been made since the last set of proposals were published, notably:

- The inclusion of the North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue areas in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward to ensure all of High Barnes is represented by one set of councillors.
- The proposal to ensure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is represented by one set of councillors in the Pennywell & South Hylton Ward.
- The Commission's proposals for the boundary between Pennywell and Ford Estate, ensuring that all roads beginning with 'P' are represented by Pennywell councillors and all roads beginning with 'F' are represented by Ford councillors.
- The inclusion of Hollycarrside estate in a single ward, so that the entire community is represented by one set of councillors.

We would be happy for the proposals to be adopted as final recommendations, subject to some minor changes to a few ward boundaries, namely:

- Transferring the area of Humbledon around Stamford Avenue, Shrewsbury Crescent and Shaftesbury Crescent from Grindon & Thorney Close Ward to St Chads Ward; ensuring that all of Humbledon is included in one ward rather than being split across two.
- Transferring streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from Fulwell Ward to Roker Ward, to ensure all parts of Roker are in Roker Ward.

- Using Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and Ryhope Wards, which is an obvious and identifiable boundary, so that Lufton Close and Cedar Way – which can only be accessed from Ryhope – are not isolated from the rest of their community by being the only bits of Ryhope and the only streets east of Rotary Road included in the Doxford Park Ward.

We have given comments on the proposed boundaries for each ward below, and have also made some suggested changes to several ward names.

We would also be content for the Commission revert to their original recommendations based around a cross-A19 ward in the Herrington area, a ‘Tunstall & Humbledon’ seat and a ‘Silksworth & Farringdon Ward’, believing that this arrangement also has merit.

3. Approach

We have split our submission into two parts. Firstly, we have provided comment and suggested minor amendments to the Commission’s revised proposals to ensure better representation for communities in section 4 of this submission.

We have then expanded on the arguments for retaining the previous proposals in the Herrington, Farringdon, Silksworth, Tunstall and Humbledon areas of the city in section 5 of this submission.

4. Comments on the Commission’s revised proposals

North-West Sunderland

4.1 Proposed Barnes & Thornhill Ward

Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission’s proposals for a Barnes & Thornhill Ward which contains a set of cohesive communities in the Barnes/High Barnes and Thornhill areas, together with parts of Ashbrooke that border Thornhill School.

These communities share a similar style of housing and share the same shops, schools and local amenities.

The inclusion of streets in High Barnes that are north of The Broadway (North Hall Drive, Brierfield Grove, Broadmayne Avenue) is particularly welcome, ensuring that the entire community of High Barnes is included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward and making sure that those streets share the same set of councillors as the rest of their community.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Barnes & Thornhill and its boundaries in its final recommendations.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed ward name of Barnes & Thornhill which represents both parts of the ward.

4.2 Proposed Hylton Castle Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposals in the Hylton Castle, Castletown and Town End Farm area.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that Hylton Castle is an appropriate name for the ward, reflecting the castle itself and Hylton Castle housing estate. Alternative proposals including the existing name of 'Castle' are confusing for residents as it does not represent an actual location or a specific castle, therefore making it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

4.3 Proposed Pallion & Ford Ward

Boundaries:

Wearside Lib Dems believe that the Commission's revised proposals for a Pallion & Ford Ward are an improvement on earlier proposals. The new boundaries ensure that coherent communities are retained together in a single ward and that locally recognised and respected boundaries based on streets starting with different letters of the alphabet.

The revised proposal will be welcomed by residents as both parts of Ford Estate either side of Front Road will now be united in a single ward.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Pallion & Ford Ward in the final recommendations.

Ward name:

The revised name of Pallion & Ford represents to the largest communities in the ward. We believe that this is appropriate given that the new ward contains all of the Ford estate area. As Millfield is split across two wards, we do not believe that it should be included in the ward name.

4.4 Proposed Pennywell & South Hylton Ward

Boundaries:

As with the revised Pallion & Ford ward, we welcome the Commission's revised proposals in the Pennywell area. The new boundaries ensure that all streets in Pennywell are represented in the same ward, and that the locally recognised boundary between Pennywell and Ford is respected by the ward boundary.

Similarly, the changes to make sure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is united in one ward will be welcomed by the local community. We urge the Commission to retain the boundaries for this ward as proposed.

Ward name:

Along with other political parties represented on the Council, we believe that South Hylton deserves to be represented in the ward name as well as Pennywell in recognition of its status as an independent village community aside from the neighbouring estate of Pennywell. We support the Commission's proposal to name the ward 'Pennywell and South Hylton'.

4.5 Proposed Redhouse Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal which keeps the neighbouring and similar communities of Red House, Downhill, Wear View and Witherwack together, alongside part of Town End Farm.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats wholeheartedly agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Redhouse Ward' reflecting the biggest single community in the ward. This is a well known and identifiable part of North Sunderland and will help residents in Redhouse and the neighbouring estates to be able to identify their councillors.

We strongly oppose suggestions for retaining the existing 'Redhill' ward name which is a portmanteau that doesn't reflect a real or identifiable place name. Similarly, 'St Cuthberts' as a ward name would not be helpful in describing an area or helping residents to be able to identify their ward and local councillors.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed 'Redhouse' ward name.

North-East Sunderland

4.6 Proposed Deptford & Hendon Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal for a ward based on communities bordering and including the city centre, which share similar needs, issues and community facilities.

The proposed boundaries follow obvious and identifiable boundaries along the railway line and main roads in the area.

We agree that Vilette Road is an easy to understand boundary between the southern part of the Deptford and Hendon Ward and the northern part of the

Grangetown Ward; and is superior to any of the nearby alternatives which would be unclear and would not be easily to identify for local people.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that 'Deptford and Hendon' is the most suitable name for this ward, reflecting two communities at either side of it. Deptford is an identifiable place which is experiencing significant regeneration and which will soon include large areas of new housing.

4.7 Proposed Fulwell Ward

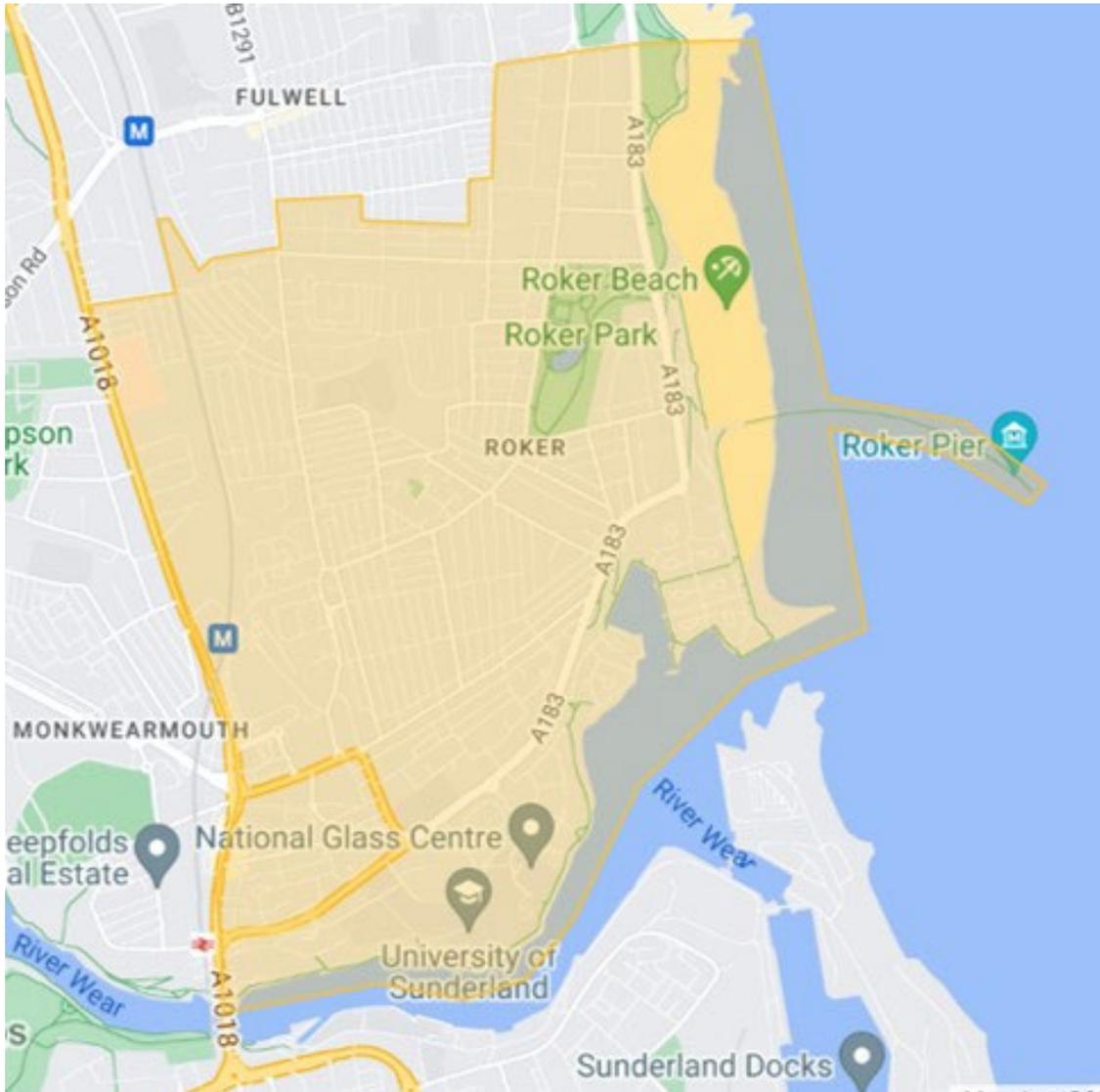
Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's adoption of Newcastle Road being the boundary between Fulwell and Southwick Ward, which was the subject of strong feelings and representation from residents living in the part of Fulwell between Newcastle Road and the railway line. We urge the Commission to continue to use this boundary in its final recommendations.

We also welcome the revised boundary to the south of Fulwell Ward and the north of Roker Ward which makes sure most parts of Roker and included in the Roker Ward, as well as equalising the number of electors between the Roker and Fulwell Wards.

However, in response to feedback from residents we would ask that the Commission changes the boundary between Fulwell and Roker Wards slightly, by using Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road as the boundary. This would ensure that streets which consider themselves as being an integral part of Roker, including Peareth Road, Stanhope Road, Park Avenue and Clifton Road, are included in the Roker Ward. This would also preserve the existing boundary between wards in this area, providing continuity and helping residents to continue to understand where the boundary lies in this community where there is no hard and fast border.

Our suggested alternative Roker Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Fulwell Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1B1RwHN7lfeV6BwuIDiXcr5CEYwS0rd4&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Roker Ward with Fulwell Ward

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Fulwell' which represents the largest single community in the ward.

4.8 Proposed Roker Ward

Boundaries:

We largely agree with the Commission's proposed boundaries between the Roker, Fulwell and Southwick Wards. As outlined above in relation to the Fulwell Ward, we would urge the Commission to consider moving the streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from the Fulwell Ward into the Roker Ward.

This is because residents in these streets see themselves as a part of Roker, close to Roker Park and St Andrew's Church Roker, and would therefore be better suited to be in the Roker Ward.

This would also follow the existing boundary between the current Fulwell and St Peter's Wards, ensuring continuity of the ward boundary.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed name of 'Roker' which is simple and reflects the single largest community in the ward.

4.9 Proposed Southwick Ward

Boundaries:

We are content with the Commission's proposed boundaries for the Southwick Ward, particularly the use of Newcastle Road as a boundary between Southwick and Fulwell Wards.

Ward name:

We agree that 'Southwick' is the most straightforward name for this ward, representing the largest settlement within it.

South Sunderland

4.10 Proposed Doxford Park Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats welcome the proposed Doxford Park ward which include all parts of the wider Doxford Park area on both sides of Doxford Park Way, whilst respecting the settlement gaps and boundaries with the Silksworth and Tunstall Village areas.

We are happy to accept the Lakeside/Gilley Law area within the Doxford Park Ward, and welcome that this cohesive community is kept in tact and in one electoral ward rather than being split.

We would suggest that the allotments between Mill Hill Road and Silksworth Road are included in the Silksworth Ward, and they can only be accessed from Silksworth Ward and not from Doxford Park Ward.

We are urging the commission to use the newly-built Rotary Road as the boundary between Ryhope and Doxford Park Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, and would be easily understood by local residents.

We are also concerned that the boundary in this area as proposed by the Commission does not make sense as a small section to the east of Rotary Road (the new Lufton Close and Cedar Way development) which can only be accessed from Rockliffe in Ryhope will be separated from the rest of the community in Doxford Park Ward by Rotary Road which is a new, arterial link road with steep sides and which cannot be crossed by pedestrians (see figure below).

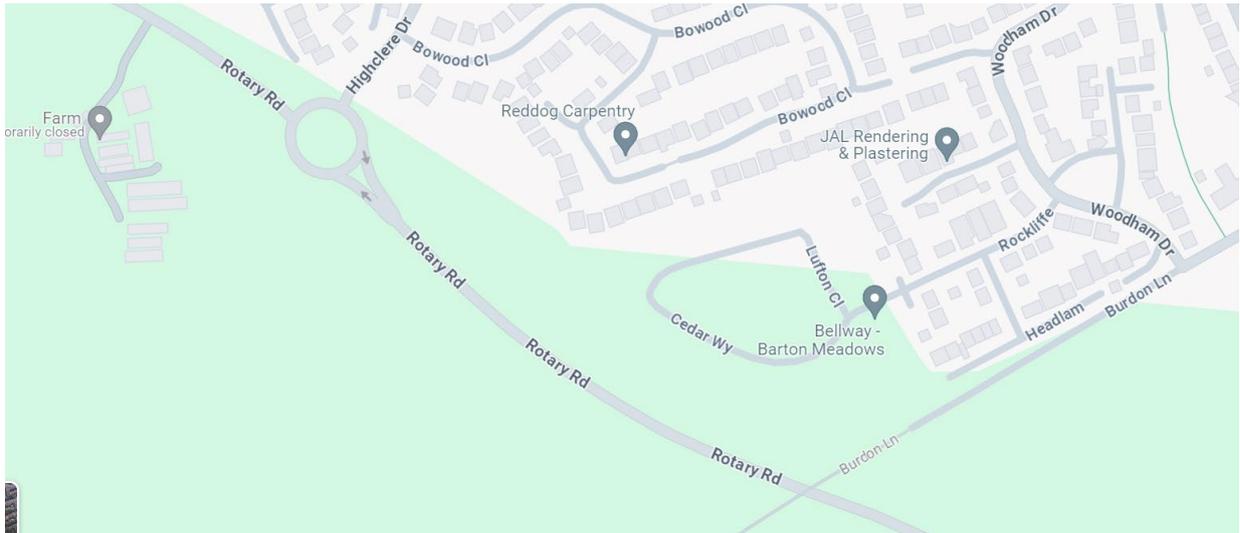


Figure: The new Cedar Way and Lufton Close development east of Rotary Road, which we believe should be included in Ryhope Ward and not Doxford Park Ward.

Our suggested alternative Doxford Park Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Ryhope Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1eAJQKaRBZX3oaPVRIO4OBZ0QM-9EBtk&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Doxford Park Ward

Ward name:

We agree that 'Doxford Park' is a simple, catch-all term for this area of the city, reflecting the name of the area of housing as well as an actual park in the ward. As outlined in our previous submission, we believe 'Doxford Park' is a better name than 'Doxford' as it represents an actual place. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Doxford Park'.

4.11 Proposed Grangetown Ward

Boundaries:

We agree that the Commission's revised proposals for the Grangetown Ward represent a cohesive community centred around Grangetown and the neighbouring parts of Ashbrooke and Hill View. We agree that this makes sense as a single community which shares facilities based around Grangetown shops, as well as sharing the same schools such as Southmoor Academy, Grangetown Primary and Hill View Infants and Juniors.

We are in agreement with the Commission's assessment that using Vilette Road as a boundary is the best way to balance the statutory criteria, and ensure that Grangetown Primary School remains in Grangetown Ward, along with the southern part of the 'Long Streets' area between Vilette Road and Spelter Works Road which sees itself as being part of Grangetown. Using Vilette Road as a boundary is the only realistic option that would be easy to identify and explain. Other suburban roads like Gray Road or Mowbray Road to the north, or an arbitrary point halfway down the streets between Corporation Road and Percy Terrace to the South would have significant problems. We therefore ask the Commission continues to use Vilette Road as boundary between Grangetown and Deptford & Hendon Wards.

Ward name:

As Grangetown is the single largest community in the proposed ward we agree that the ward should be named after Grangetown. The area of Ashbrooke is split across 3 wards and should not be included in this ward name in our opinion.

4.12 Proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the Commission's decision to retain the estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one ward. They are a cohesive set of communities, centred around the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon sandhills green space, which share community facilities, schools and good transport and community links between them.

Keeping these areas together has also been supported by many residents in the Commission's consultations to date.

We believe that the Commission's proposals improve on the current warding arrangements in this area by:

- (i) ensuring that all of Springwell estate is now in one ward, instead of Springwell Road being a ward boundary
- (ii) making sure that all parts of Grindon are now in one ward, with the Broadway Estate around Sutherland Drive together with Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive now being included with the rest of the community.

As outlined in more detail below in the section on St Chads Ward, we strongly urge the Commission to exclude a small part of the community of Humbledon (around Stratford Avenue, Shaftesbury Crescent and Shrewsbury Crescent) from the Grindon and Thorney Close Ward.

These streets are an intrinsic part of the community around Humbledon Hill (both Humbledon itself which straddles both sides of Durham Road (Scruton Avenue is as much a part of Humbledon as Shaftesbury and Shrewsbury Crescents) and Plains Farm (which also lies on Humbledon Hill). We believe that these streets should be in the proposed St Chads Ward with the rest of their local area.

This would be in keeping with the Commission's welcome proposals across the rest of Sunderland to make sure estates with clear and identifiable boundaries are kept together in one ward rather than being split across two or more wards (Ford Estate, Hylton Lane Estate, Springwell, Hollycarrside, Silksworth etc.).

We also believe that including this area with Grindon and Thorney Close would be detrimental to the way residents in that part of Humbledon will be represented, as they will be a small part of the ward that is geographically and culturally separate to the rest of the community, and which would have competing interests in terms of grants for community facilities, use of different shops, green spaces, schools etc. to the vast majority of residents in the rest of the ward.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name which reflects the two largest estates at either side of the ward. Liberal Democrats believe this is a significant improvement on the proposed 'Sandhill' ward name which doesn't reflect an actual place and which causes confusion amongst residents. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Grindon & Thorney Close Ward' in the final proposals.

4.13 Proposed Ryhope Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed boundary which respects the boundary between the communities of Ryhope and Tunstall Village.

As outlined in response to the proposed Doxford Park Ward, we are encouraging the Commission to use Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and

Ryhope Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, which would be significant less confusing than the current boundary which includes a development site on either side of this arterial route which has already been built.

We believe that having residents on Cedar Way and Lufton Close represented in Doxford Park even though they are a part of Ryhope and can only be accessed from Ryhope would not be satisfactory.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name of 'Ryhope'.

4.14 Proposed Silksworth Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with proposals based on having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton areas west of the A19, then we would support the proposals outlined for a Silksworth Ward.

The ward includes all parts of the community of Silksworth, including those areas south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road, which residents are in favour of. However, we believe that the allotments between Cambridge Road and Mill Hill Road should be included in the Silksworth Ward as they are only accessible from roads in Silksworth and not from any streets in Doxford Park.

Ward name:

As this ward contains all of Tunstall Village including Tunstall Village Green, contains Tunstall Hills and includes the areas of housing known as Tunstall either side of Essen Way, we believe that it would be preferable for this ward to be known as 'Silksworth and Tunstall' to represent both communities in the proposed ward.

4.15 Proposed St Chad's Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be content with the St Chad's ward, subject to one small amendment.

At the moment the ward contains the entire communities of East and Middle Herrington, Farrington and Plains Farm, continuing the welcome trend in the Commission's recommendations of keeping entire estates and communities within one ward instead of splitting them.

However, under this proposal, the community of Humbledon is split across several wards. The part of Humbledon around Scruton Avenue, Seaforth Road, Highside Drive, Hipsburn Drive and Alpine Way is included in this ward along the neighbouring estate of Plains Farm which is also located on Humbledon Hill. Part of Durham Road

and the neighbouring streets of Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue are included in the Grindon & Thorney Close ward, whilst 104 – 134 Durham Road are included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward, together with Humbledon's shopping parade on Ettrick Grove.

Liberal Democrats therefore propose a slight amendment so that all of Humbledon is included in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We propose a boundary running to the rear of houses on Shaftesbury Crescent, behind No. 39 Ettrick Grove and to the rear of Bede College.

This would ensure that all parts of Humbledon on both sides of Durham Road are included in the St Chad's Ward; would make sure that Humbledon shops and neighbouring properties are not an outlier in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward; and also ensures that all of Barnes Park is contained within the Barnes & Thornhill Ward rather than being split across two wards which is beneficial for the reasons outlined at previous stages of the consultation.

The Commission has included all parts of East Herrington on both sides of Durham Road in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We believe that it would make sense to do so in the Humbledon area too.

In addition, including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in the proposed St Chad's Ward would also improve community cohesion and effective governance by local councillors. Residents in this area share shops and facilities with the rest of the Humbledon and Plains Farm area, including along Ettrick Grove and shops at 179 – 185 Durham Road, north of Scruton Avenue. Residents in this area would use Plains Farm Primary School and make use of community facilities at Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre.

People living in this part of Humbledon do not share much in common with the Grindon, Thorney Close and Springwell areas, who attend different schools at Sandhill View, St Cuthberts, Grindon Infants, Thorney Close Primary School and Hasting Hill Academy. In addition, residents across the Springwell, Grindon and Thorney Close areas use community centres, facilities and groups at the Grindon Young People's Centre and Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. As discussed above, these facilities are not utilised by residents in the Humbledon area.

We fear that the Commission's proposal would mean that people living in the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area would be included in a ward with areas in which they have very little in common and do not share community facilities. We do not believe that this would lead to effective or efficient governance.

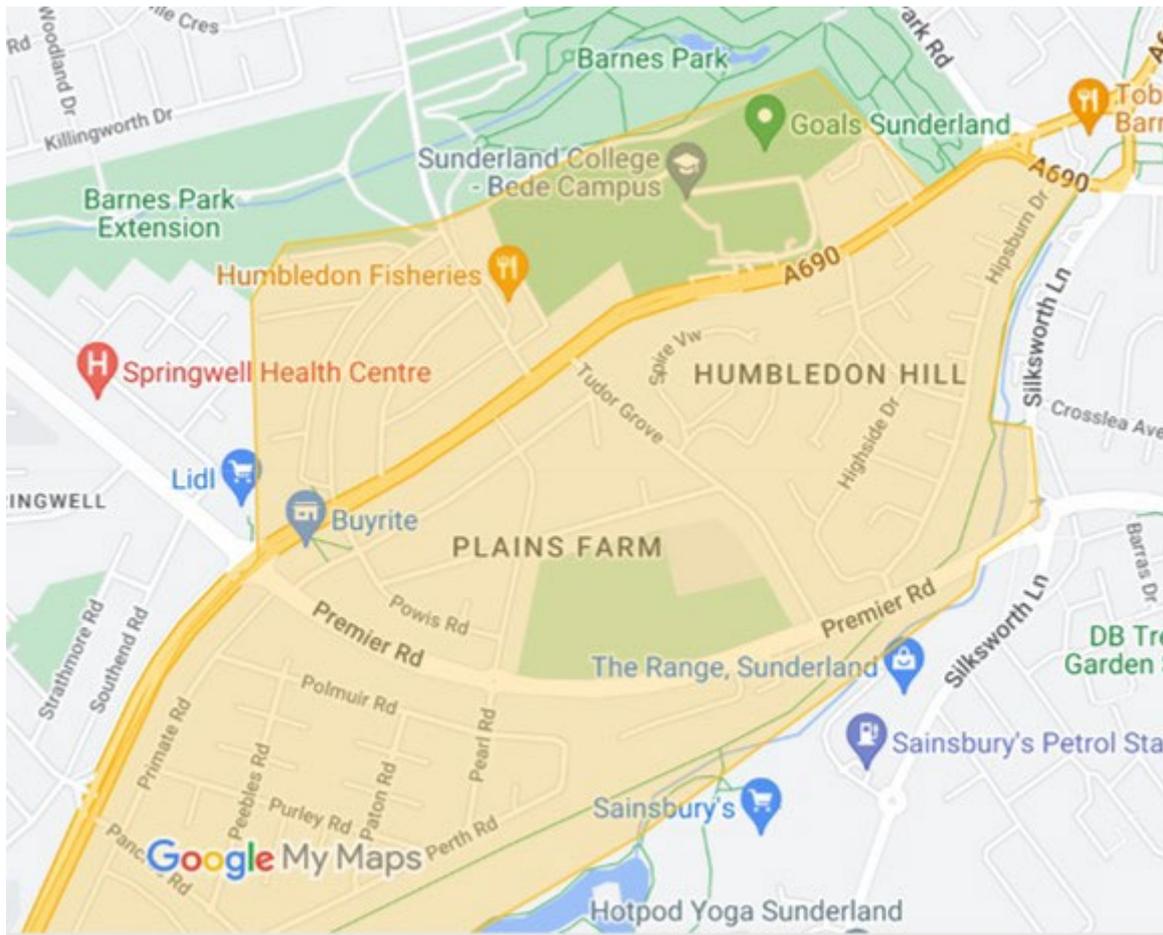
We therefore ask the Commission to include all parts of Humbledon in the St Chad's Ward by including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in this ward, together with neighbouring parts of Durham Road and Ettrick Grove.

Our suggested amended boundary to this ward is detailed in the figures below. The map is available to view at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=18wSbEWXNNAtKwxxq8iGALU1IJ1oPsVs&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for the St Chad's Ward



A more detailed view of the proposed revised boundary in the Humbledon Hill area.

Ward name:

As mentioned in Liberal Democrats submissions at previous stages of the process, we do not believe that ward names should be named after parishes, churches or places that do not actually exist.

Whilst acknowledging the difficulty in finding a name that accurately describes the communities in this ward, Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that naming the ward after actual communities it contains is far preferable than a name that means nothing to residents in the ward.

We therefore propose 'Farringdon and Humbledon' as a ward name, reflecting the estate of Farringdon in the south and Humbledon Hill to the north which covers both the Humbledon area itself around the Shaftesbury Avenue and Seaforth Road area, as well as Plains Farm estate which also lies on Humbledon Hill.

If the Commission does not adopt Liberal Democrat proposals to include the Shaftesbury Crescent/Stamford Avenue/Shrewsbury Crescent part of Humbledon in this ward and instead retains them in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, then we would not suggesting including Humbledon in the ward name, as this would mean a large part of Humbledon is not included in the ward of the same name. We therefore suggest 'Plains Farm and Farringdon' would be a better ward name in these circumstances.

Houghton and Hetton

4.16 Proposed Copt Hill Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would be happy to accept this proposed ward which has a clear and identifiable boundary along the A690.

Ward name:

We believe the name 'Copt Hill' to be one which alienates residents as there is no such community as 'Copt Hill'. Whilst it is the name of a local hill and a public house, we do not believe that it adequately reflects the communities in Hetton, Houghton and Rainton Bridge that are contained within the ward.

We do not believe that continuing to have a ward named 'Copt Hill' has any merit, and therefore ask that the Commission chooses an alternative name that better reflects the areas contained within it and helps residents to easily identify the ward in which they live and therefore the councillors that represent them.

Liberal Democrats believe that 'Houghton East' would be a more suitable name, as this ward contains a large portion of the town of Houghton le Spring east of the A690. Whilst the ward also contains Rainton Bridge and the Hetton Downs area of Hetton-le-Hole, both of these communities see themselves as part of the wider Houghton area, have a Houghton postal address and post code, and have affinity with that town.

We therefore believe that the name 'Houghton East' or 'Houghton East and Hetton Downs' would be the most appropriate name for this ward.

4.17 Proposed Herrington & Newbottle Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be happy to accept this ward containing the communities of West Herrington, New Herrington, Herrington Burn, Philadelphia, Newbottle and norther parts of Houghton.

Ward name:

We believe that this ward name would create a lot of confusion and needs to be adapted.

This is because if someone refers to living in 'Herrington' this usually means 'East Herrington' which is not a part of this ward. Herrington only referring to West Herrington/New Herrington but not East Herrington would create confusion as to which ward people live in and which councillors represent them.

Liberal Democrats would prefer the ward name to be simply 'Newbottle' which refers to the community in the geographic centre of the ward and which neighbours all other parts of it.

Alternatively 'West Herrington and Newbottle' or 'Houghton North and Newbottle' would be more appropriate and less confusing than including just the name 'Herrington' in this ward when it does not include East Herrington.

4.18 Proposed Hetton Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would support the boundaries in this area as proposed. We believe that the Commission's proposal to use Hetton Burn as a boundary better reflects the division of communities than the existing boundary in this area along Houghton Road (A182).

Ward name:

We agree that 'Hetton' is a simple, clear and appropriate name for this ward.

4.19 Proposed Houghton Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would support a ward as proposed containing parts of Houghton west of the A690 together with neighbouring communities of Fence Houses and East Rainton.

Ward name:

Whilst this ward is based largely on the existing Houghton Ward, we believe that continuing with the name 'Houghton Ward' will create confusion as large parts of the town of Houghton are included in the proposed Copt Hill and Newbottle wards.

People living in the town of Houghton but in those two wards would understandably think that they live in Houghton Ward if there is a ward of that name.

Instead of following the existing name of Houghton for the sake of continuity, we believe that an alternative name would be preferable to distinguish this ward from others in the Houghton area.

'Houghton West' or 'Fence Houses and East Rainton' would be clearer names in our opinion.

4.20 Proposed Penshaw & Shiney Row Ward

Boundaries:

We would support the boundaries as proposed for this ward which follows clear and identifiable boundaries to separate the Shiney Row and Penshaw areas to neighbouring communities to the south of them.

Ward name:

We are happy to have both distinct communities of Penshaw and Shiney Row included in the ward name for the district which contains them both.

Washington

4.21 Proposed Albany & Biddick Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposed Albany and Biddick Ward which ensures that distinct village communities are not split between wards, and agree with the Commission's inclusion of Biddick School in the ward of the same name.

Ward name:

We support the ward name reflecting large communities at either end of the ward, and believe that naming the ward after villages is preferable to naming Washington ward after compass points as this ensures that it is easier for residents to identify and have affinity with the ward in which they live.

4.22 Proposed Ayton & Springwell Village Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposal for distinct village communities in the west of Washington to be represented together in a ward.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed ward name, including reference to 'Springwell Village' to avoid confusion with Springwell estate in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward.

4.23 Proposed Barmston & Sulgrave Ward

Boundaries:

We are happy to support the proposed boundaries in this ward which keep village communities whole rather than splitting them across ward boundaries.

Ward name:

We support the proposed ward name for this ward, believing it to be preferable to a name reflecting a compass point.

4.24 Proposed Concord Ward

Boundaries:

We believe that the boundary makes sense as it puts neighbouring communities in the north of Washington in a single ward, representing a sensible and cohesive area.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed name of Concord Ward reflecting the largest single community in the ward.

4.25 Proposed Riverside Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed boundaries in this area, bringing together communities in the southern part of Washington together with the neighbouring estate of Mount Pleasant on the south side of Fatfield Bridge.

Ward name:

We would like the Commission to rethink the proposed name of 'Riverside Ward'. The name Riverside does not reflect a real or identifiable community. We believe that this would make it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

The name 'Riverside' is also problematic because many parts of the city of Sunderland are thought of as being on the riverside along the length of the River Wear. Specifically, the development of the former Vaux brewery site and neighbouring areas of Deptford and Ayres Quay on the outskirts of the city centre is known and is being marketed as 'Riverside Sunderland'. Further details are available at www.riversidesunderland.com .

We therefore believe that a 'Riverside Ward' would create confusion as to where it is located and which communities are represented within it, particularly as an area of the city centre has the same name.

Liberal Democrats ask the Commission to re-name the ward after the community of Fatfield. Not only is this community at the heart of the proposed ward, it is also the name of the bridge which links the Washington side of the River Wear with the Mount Pleasant area on the southern side.

Residents in Mount Pleasant are aware of their proximity to Fatfield and that they share Fatfield Bridge with communities in Washington north of the River. Calling this area 'Fatfield Ward' would mean that communities on both sides of the River can identify the ward and have affinity with its name.

5. Merits of reverting to proposals for a Herrington Ward, Tunstall & Humbledon Ward and Silksworth & Farringdon Ward

Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that there is merit in reverting to the previous proposals in terms of warding arrangements that included a 'Tunstall and Humbledon' Ward, a 'Silksworth and Farringdon' Ward and a cross-A19 'Herrington' Ward.

As outlined in our previous submissions, we believe that East, Middle, West and New Herrington all share community links and facilities, and that there are several walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them. These communities share community groups, youth groups like Scouts and Guides, doctors surgeries, open and recreational spaces and public houses like The Stackyard and The Stables. There are good walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them.

We also continue to believe that a Silksworth and Farringdon Ward has merit as a cohesive set of adjacent communities containing Silksworth, Gilley Law/Lakeside and Farringdon. We believe that the numerous resident submissions during the last consultation to keep Silksworth in one ward rather than being split across two could be achieved by including the streets south of Tunstall Village Road in the Silksworth and Farringdon Ward, rather than including the Tunstall/Ashbrooke area as far north as Queen Alexandra Road. The numerous submissions from residents requested that all parts of Silksworth either side of Tunstall Village Road were included in one ward, rather than any objections to being in a ward shared with Farringdon.

Returning to this pattern of warding would also ensure a fairer distribution of electors across the city. We have some concerns that having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton area exclusively east of the A19 means a significant number of those wards are significantly under-quota, with most of them being at -10%.

In contrast, all wards east of the A19 and south of the River Wear in Sunderland are above quota, with Grangetown, Deptford & Hendon and Pallion & Ford wards all at 10%. We believe there is merit in re-introducing a Herrington Ward including East, Middle, New and West Herrington, together with Herrington Burn, Newbottle and Philadelphia that would represent a cohesive community and ensure that there is a better distribution of electors across all 25 wards in the city.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, we ask the Commission to consider the merits of returning to a warding pattern that includes a cross-A19 Herrington Ward. If the Commission decides not to do so, then we believe the proposed wards would be significantly improved by:

- Removing the small part of Humbledon from Grindon and Thorney Close Ward and transferring it to the St Chads Ward.
- Ensuring Lufton Close and Cedar Way are included in Ryhope Ward instead of Doxford Park Ward

- Making sure all streets which see themselves as Roker are included in Roker Ward by slightly altering the boundary between Roker and Fulwell Wards along Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road.

Warding arrangements in the Sunderland City Council area Consultation on proposals

Wearside Liberal Democrats submission April 2024

1. Introduction

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.

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

2. Summary

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.

We particularly welcome changes that have been made since the last set of proposals were published, notably:

- The inclusion of the North Hall Drive and Broadmayne Avenue areas in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward to ensure all of High Barnes is represented by one set of councillors.
- The proposal to ensure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is represented by one set of councillors in the Pennywell & South Hylton Ward.
- The Commission's proposals for the boundary between Pennywell and Ford Estate, ensuring that all roads beginning with 'P' are represented by Pennywell councillors and all roads beginning with 'F' are represented by Ford councillors.
- The inclusion of Hollycarrside estate in a single ward, so that the entire community is represented by one set of councillors.

We would be happy for the proposals to be adopted as final recommendations, subject to some minor changes to a few ward boundaries, namely:

- Transferring the area of Humbledon around Stamford Avenue, Shrewsbury Crescent and Shaftesbury Crescent from Grindon & Thorney Close Ward to St Chads Ward; ensuring that all of Humbledon is included in one ward rather than being split across two.
- Transferring streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from Fulwell Ward to Roker Ward, to ensure all parts of Roker are in Roker Ward.

- Using Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and Ryhope Wards, which is an obvious and identifiable boundary, so that Lufton Close and Cedar Way – which can only be accessed from Ryhope – are not isolated from the rest of their community by being the only bits of Ryhope and the only streets east of Rotary Road included in the Doxford Park Ward.

We have given comments on the proposed boundaries for each ward below, and have also made some suggested changes to several ward names.

We would also be content for the Commission revert to their original recommendations based around a cross-A19 ward in the Herrington area, a 'Tunstall & Humbledon' seat and a 'Silksworth & Farringdon Ward', believing that this arrangement also has merit.

3. Approach

We have split our submission into two parts. Firstly, we have provided comment and suggested minor amendments to the Commission's revised proposals to ensure better representation for communities in section 4 of this submission.

We have then expanded on the arguments for retaining the previous proposals in the Herrington, Farringdon, Silksworth, Tunstall and Humbledon areas of the city in section 5 of this submission.

4. Comments on the Commission's revised proposals

North-West Sunderland

4.1 Proposed Barnes & Thornhill Ward

Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's proposals for a Barnes & Thornhill Ward which contains a set of cohesive communities in the Barnes/High Barnes and Thornhill areas, together with parts of Ashbrooke that border Thornhill School.

These communities share a similar style of housing and share the same shops, schools and local amenities.

The inclusion of streets in High Barnes that are north of The Broadway (North Hall Drive, Brierfield Grove, Broadmayne Avenue) is particularly welcome, ensuring that the entire community of High Barnes is included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward and making sure that those streets share the same set of councillors as the rest of their community.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Barnes & Thornhill and its boundaries in its final recommendations.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed ward name of Barnes & Thornhill which represents both parts of the ward.

4.2 Proposed Hylton Castle Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposals in the Hylton Castle, Castletown and Town End Farm area.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that Hylton Castle is an appropriate name for the ward, reflecting the castle itself and Hylton Castle housing estate. Alternative proposals including the existing name of 'Castle' are confusing for residents as it does not represent an actual location or a specific castle, therefore making it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

4.3 Proposed Pallion & Ford Ward

Boundaries:

Wearside Lib Dems believe that the Commission's revised proposals for a Pallion & Ford Ward are an improvement on earlier proposals. The new boundaries ensure that coherent communities are retained together in a single ward and that locally recognised and respected boundaries based on streets starting with different letters of the alphabet.

The revised proposal will be welcomed by residents as both parts of Ford Estate either side of Front Road will now be united in a single ward.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed Pallion & Ford Ward in the final recommendations.

Ward name:

The revised name of Pallion & Ford represents to the largest communities in the ward. We believe that this is appropriate given that the new ward contains all of the Ford estate area. As Millfield is split across two wards, we do not believe that it should be included in the ward name.

4.4 Proposed Pennywell & South Hylton Ward

Boundaries:

As with the revised Pallion & Ford ward, we welcome the Commission's revised proposals in the Pennywell area. The new boundaries ensure that all streets in Pennywell are represented in the same ward, and that the locally recognised boundary between Pennywell and Ford is respected by the ward boundary.

Similarly, the changes to make sure that all of Hylton Lane Estate is united in one ward will be welcomed by the local community. We urge the Commission to retain the boundaries for this ward as proposed.

Ward name:

Along with other political parties represented on the Council, we believe that South Hylton deserves to be represented in the ward name as well as Pennywell in recognition of its status as an independent village community aside from the neighbouring estate of Pennywell. We support the Commission's proposal to name the ward 'Pennywell and South Hylton'.

4.5 Proposed Redhouse Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal which keeps the neighbouring and similar communities of Red House, Downhill, Wear View and Witherwack together, alongside part of Town End Farm.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats wholeheartedly agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Redhouse Ward' reflecting the biggest single community in the ward. This is a well known and identifiable part of North Sunderland and will help residents in Redhouse and the neighbouring estates to be able to identify their councillors.

We strongly oppose suggestions for retaining the existing 'Redhill' ward name which is a portmanteau that doesn't reflect a real or identifiable place name. Similarly, 'St Cuthberts' as a ward name would not be helpful in describing an area or helping residents to be able to identify their ward and local councillors.

We urge the Commission to retain the proposed 'Redhouse' ward name.

North-East Sunderland

4.6 Proposed Deptford & Hendon Ward

Boundaries:

We agree with the Commission's proposal for a ward based on communities bordering and including the city centre, which share similar needs, issues and community facilities.

The proposed boundaries follow obvious and identifiable boundaries along the railway line and main roads in the area.

We agree that Vilette Road is an easy to understand boundary between the southern part of the Deptford and Hendon Ward and the northern part of the

Grangetown Ward; and is superior to any of the nearby alternatives which would be unclear and would not be easily to identify for local people.

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission that 'Deptford and Hendon' is the most suitable name for this ward, reflecting two communities at either side of it. Deptford is an identifiable place which is experiencing significant regeneration and which will soon include large areas of new housing.

4.7 Proposed Fulwell Ward

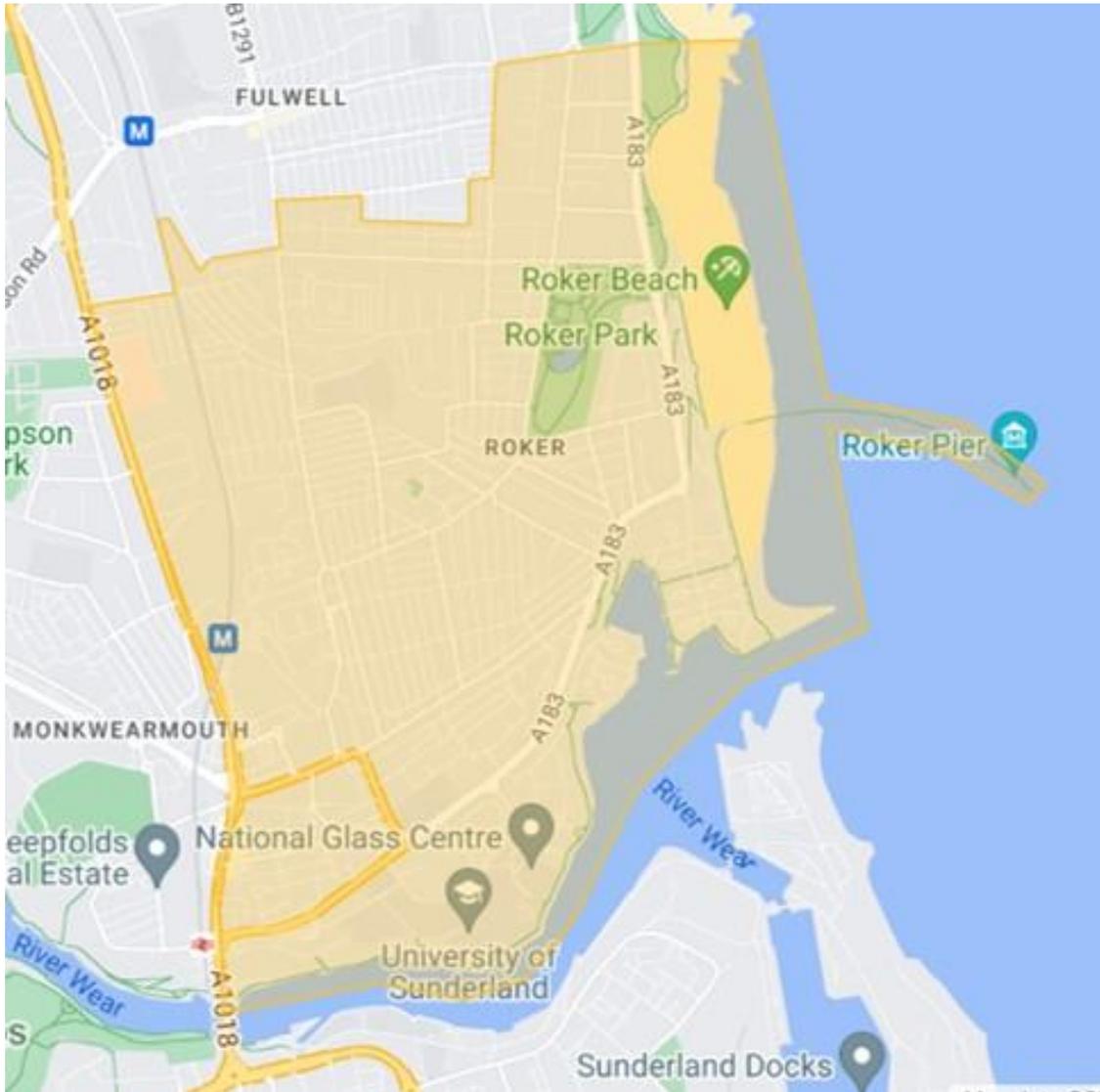
Boundaries:

We welcome the Commission's adoption of Newcastle Road being the boundary between Fulwell and Southwick Ward, which was the subject of strong feelings and representation from residents living in the part of Fulwell between Newcastle Road and the railway line. We urge the Commission to continue to use this boundary in its final recommendations.

We also welcome the revised boundary to the south of Fulwell Ward and the north of Roker Ward which makes sure most parts of Roker and included in the Roker Ward, as well as equalising the number of electors between the Roker and Fulwell Wards.

However, in response to feedback from residents we would ask that the Commission changes the boundary between Fulwell and Roker Wards slightly, by using Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road as the boundary. This would ensure that streets which consider themselves as being an integral part of Roker, including Peareth Road, Stanhope Road, Park Avenue and Clifton Road, are included in the Roker Ward. This would also preserve the existing boundary between wards in this area, providing continuity and helping residents to continue to understand where the boundary lies in this community where there is no hard and fast border.

Our suggested alternative Roker Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Fulwell Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1B1RwHN7lfeV6BwuIDiXcr5CEYwS0rd4&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Roker Ward with Fulwell Ward

Ward name:

We agree with the Commission's proposed name of 'Fulwell' which represents the largest single community in the ward.

4.8 Proposed Roker Ward

Boundaries:

We largely agree with the Commission's proposed boundaries between the Roker, Fulwell and Southwick Wards. As outlined above in relation to the Fulwell Ward, we would urge the Commission to consider moving the streets east of Mere Knolls Road and south of Chichester Road from the Fulwell Ward into the Roker Ward.

This is because residents in these streets see themselves as a part of Roker, close to Roker Park and St Andrew's Church Roker, and would therefore be better suited to be in the Roker Ward.

This would also follow the existing boundary between the current Fulwell and St Peter's Wards, ensuring continuity of the ward boundary.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed name of 'Roker' which is simple and reflects the single largest community in the ward.

4.9 Proposed Southwick Ward

Boundaries:

We are content with the Commission's proposed boundaries for the Southwick Ward, particularly the use of Newcastle Road as a boundary between Southwick and Fulwell Wards.

Ward name:

We agree that 'Southwick' is the most straightforward name for this ward, representing the largest settlement within it.

South Sunderland

4.10 Proposed Doxford Park Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats welcome the proposed Doxford Park ward which include all parts of the wider Doxford Park area on both sides of Doxford Park Way, whilst respecting the settlement gaps and boundaries with the Silksworth and Tunstall Village areas.

We are happy to accept the Lakeside/Gilley Law area within the Doxford Park Ward, and welcome that this cohesive community is kept in tact and in one electoral ward rather than being split.

We would suggest that the allotments between Mill Hill Road and Silksworth Road are included in the Silksworth Ward, and they can only be accessed from Silksworth Ward and not from Doxford Park Ward.

We are urging the commission to use the newly-built Rotary Road as the boundary between Ryhope and Doxford Park Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, and would be easily understood by local residents.

We are also concerned that the boundary in this area as proposed by the Commission does not make sense as a small section to the east of Rotary Road (the new Lufton Close and Cedar Way development) which can only be accessed from Rockliffe in Ryhope will be separated from the rest of the community in Doxford Park Ward by Rotary Road which is a new, arterial link road with steep sides and which cannot be crossed by pedestrians (see figure below).

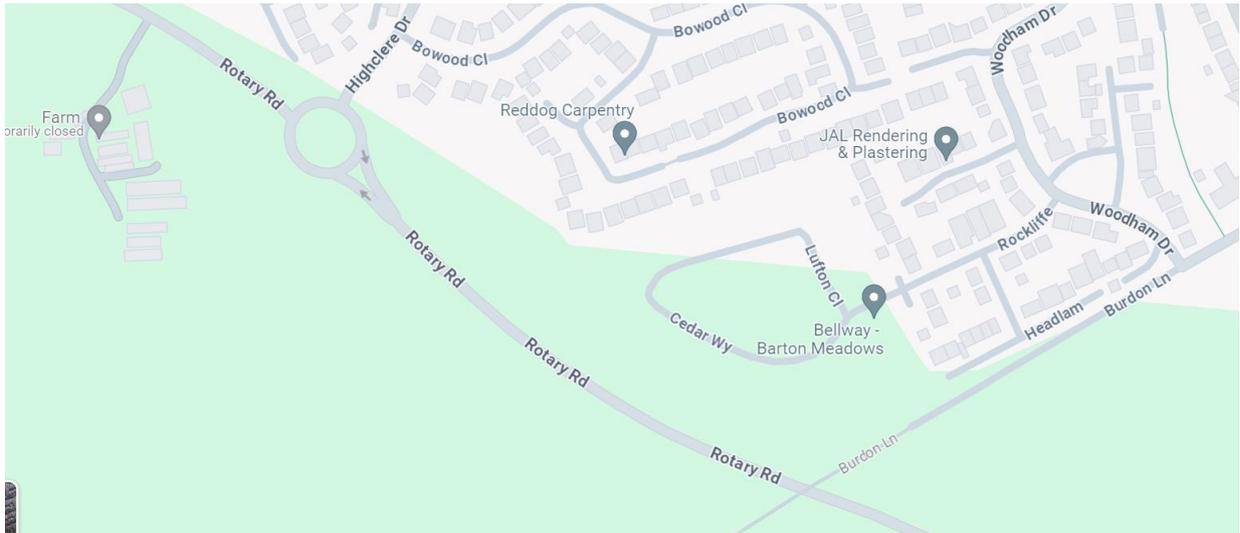


Figure: The new Cedar Way and Lufton Close development east of Rotary Road, which we believe should be included in Ryhope Ward and not Doxford Park Ward.

Our suggested alternative Doxford Park Ward, with a slightly amended boundary with Ryhope Ward, is set out in the figure below. The map can be accessed online at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1eAJQKaRBZX3oaPVRIO4OBZ0QM-9EBtk&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for Doxford Park Ward

Ward name:

We agree that 'Doxford Park' is a simple, catch-all term for this area of the city, reflecting the name of the area of housing as well as an actual park in the ward. As outlined in our previous submission, we believe 'Doxford Park' is a better name than 'Doxford' as it represents an actual place. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Doxford Park'.

4.11 Proposed Grangetown Ward

Boundaries:

We agree that the Commission's revised proposals for the Grangetown Ward represent a cohesive community centred around Grangetown and the neighbouring parts of Ashbrooke and Hill View. We agree that this makes sense as a single community which shares facilities based around Grangetown shops, as well as sharing the same schools such as Southmoor Academy, Grangetown Primary and Hill View Infants and Juniors.

We are in agreement with the Commission's assessment that using Vilette Road as a boundary is the best way to balance the statutory criteria, and ensure that Grangetown Primary School remains in Grangetown Ward, along with the southern part of the 'Long Streets' area between Vilette Road and Spelter Works Road which sees itself as being part of Grangetown. Using Vilette Road as a boundary is the only realistic option that would be easy to identify and explain. Other suburban roads like Gray Road or Mowbray Road to the north, or an arbitrary point halfway down the streets between Corporation Road and Percy Terrace to the South would have significant problems. We therefore ask the Commission continues to use Vilette Road as boundary between Grangetown and Deptford & Hendon Wards.

Ward name:

As Grangetown is the single largest community in the proposed ward we agree that the ward should be named after Grangetown. The area of Ashbrooke is split across 3 wards and should not be included in this ward name in our opinion.

4.12 Proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the Commission's decision to retain the estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one ward. They are a cohesive set of communities, centred around the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon sandhills green space, which share community facilities, schools and good transport and community links between them.

Keeping these areas together has also been supported by many residents in the Commission's consultations to date.

We believe that the Commission's proposals improve on the current warding arrangements in this area by:

- (i) ensuring that all of Springwell estate is now in one ward, instead of Springwell Road being a ward boundary
- (ii) making sure that all parts of Grindon are now in one ward, with the Broadway Estate around Sutherland Drive together with Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive now being included with the rest of the community.

As outlined in more detail below in the section on St Chads Ward, we strongly urge the Commission to exclude a small part of the community of Humbledon (around Stratford Avenue, Shaftesbury Crescent and Shrewsbury Crescent) from the Grindon and Thorney Close Ward.

These streets are an intrinsic part of the community around Humbledon Hill (both Humbledon itself which straddles both sides of Durham Road (Scruton Avenue is as much a part of Humbledon as Shaftesbury and Shrewsbury Crescents) and Plains Farm (which also lies on Humbledon Hill). We believe that these streets should be in the proposed St Chads Ward with the rest of their local area.

This would be in keeping with the Commission's welcome proposals across the rest of Sunderland to make sure estates with clear and identifiable boundaries are kept together in one ward rather than being split across two or more wards (Ford Estate, Hylton Lane Estate, Springwell, Hollycarrside, Silksworth etc.).

We also believe that including this area with Grindon and Thorney Close would be detrimental to the way residents in that part of Humbledon will be represented, as they will be a small part of the ward that is geographically and culturally separate to the rest of the community, and which would have competing interests in terms of grants for community facilities, use of different shops, green spaces, schools etc. to the vast majority of residents in the rest of the ward.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name which reflects the two largest estates at either side of the ward. Liberal Democrats believe this is a significant improvement on the proposed 'Sandhill' ward name which doesn't reflect an actual place and which causes confusion amongst residents. We urge the Commission to retain the name 'Grindon & Thorney Close Ward' in the final proposals.

4.13 Proposed Ryhope Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats agree with the proposed boundary which respects the boundary between the communities of Ryhope and Tunstall Village.

As outlined in response to the proposed Doxford Park Ward, we are encouraging the Commission to use Rotary Road as the boundary between Doxford Park and

Ryhope Wards. This is an easy to identify boundary between these two communities, which would be significant less confusing than the current boundary which includes a development site on either side of this arterial route which has already been built.

We believe that having residents on Cedar Way and Lufton Close represented in Doxford Park even though they are a part of Ryhope and can only be accessed from Ryhope would not be satisfactory.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed ward name of 'Ryhope'.

4.14 Proposed Silksworth Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with proposals based on having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton areas west of the A19, then we would support the proposals outlined for a Silksworth Ward.

The ward includes all parts of the community of Silksworth, including those areas south of Silksworth Terrace and Tunstall Village Road, which residents are in favour of. However, we believe that the allotments between Cambridge Road and Mill Hill Road should be included in the Silksworth Ward as they are only accessible from roads in Silksworth and not from any streets in Doxford Park.

Ward name:

As this ward contains all of Tunstall Village including Tunstall Village Green, contains Tunstall Hills and includes the areas of housing known as Tunstall either side of Essen Way, we believe that it would be preferable for this ward to be known as 'Silksworth and Tunstall' to represent both communities in the proposed ward.

4.15 Proposed St Chad's Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be content with the St Chad's ward, subject to one small amendment.

At the moment the ward contains the entire communities of East and Middle Herrington, Farrington and Plains Farm, continuing the welcome trend in the Commission's recommendations of keeping entire estates and communities within one ward instead of splitting them.

However, under this proposal, the community of Humbledon is split across several wards. The part of Humbledon around Scruton Avenue, Seaforth Road, Highside Drive, Hipsburn Drive and Alpine Way is included in this ward along the neighbouring estate of Plains Farm which is also located on Humbledon Hill. Part of Durham Road

and the neighbouring streets of Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue are included in the Grindon & Thorney Close ward, whilst 104 – 134 Durham Road are included in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward, together with Humbledon's shopping parade on Etrick Grove.

Liberal Democrats therefore propose a slight amendment so that all of Humbledon is included in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We propose a boundary running to the rear of houses on Shaftesbury Crescent, behind No. 39 Etrick Grove and to the rear of Bede College.

This would ensure that all parts of Humbledon on both sides of Durham Road are included in the St Chad's Ward; would make sure that Humbledon shops and neighbouring properties are not an outlier in the Barnes & Thornhill Ward; and also ensures that all of Barnes Park is contained within the Barnes & Thornhill Ward rather than being split across two wards which is beneficial for the reasons outlined at previous stages of the consultation.

The Commission has included all parts of East Herrington on both sides of Durham Road in the proposed St Chad's Ward. We believe that it would make sense to do so in the Humbledon area too.

In addition, including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in the proposed St Chad's Ward would also improve community cohesion and effective governance by local councillors. Residents in this area share shops and facilities with the rest of the Humbledon and Plains Farm area, including along Etrick Grove and shops at 179 – 185 Durham Road, north of Scruton Avenue. Residents in this area would use Plains Farm Primary School and make use of community facilities at Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre.

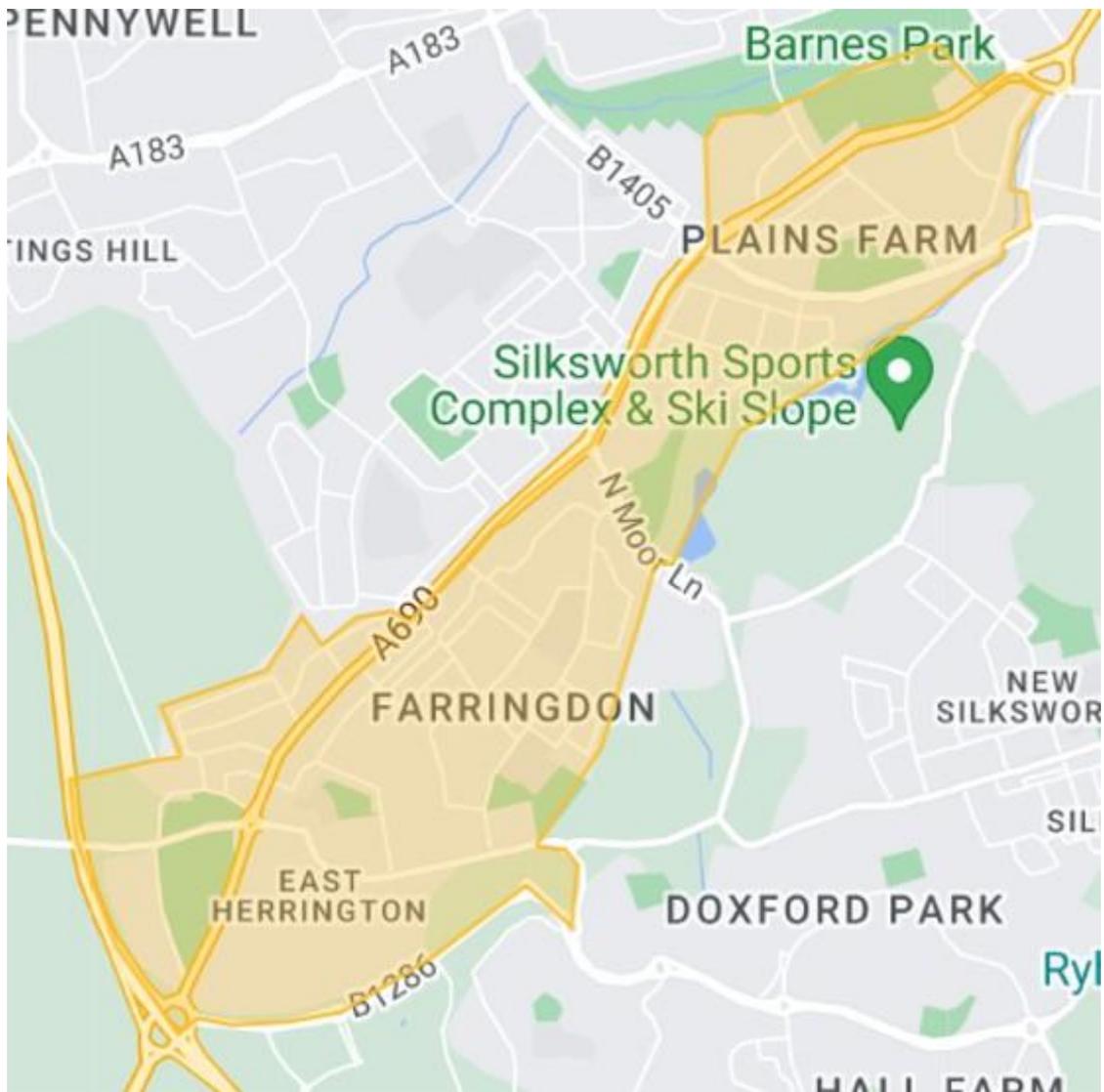
People living in this part of Humbledon do not share much in common with the Grindon, Thorney Close and Springwell areas, who attend different schools at Sandhill View, St Cuthberts, Grindon Infants, Thorney Close Primary School and Hasting Hill Academy. In addition, residents across the Springwell, Grindon and Thorney Close areas use community centres, facilities and groups at the Grindon Young People's Centre and Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. As discussed above, these facilities are not utilised by residents in the Humbledon area.

We fear that the Commission's proposal would mean that people living in the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area would be included in a ward with areas in which they have very little in common and do not share community facilities. We do not believe that this would lead to effective or efficient governance.

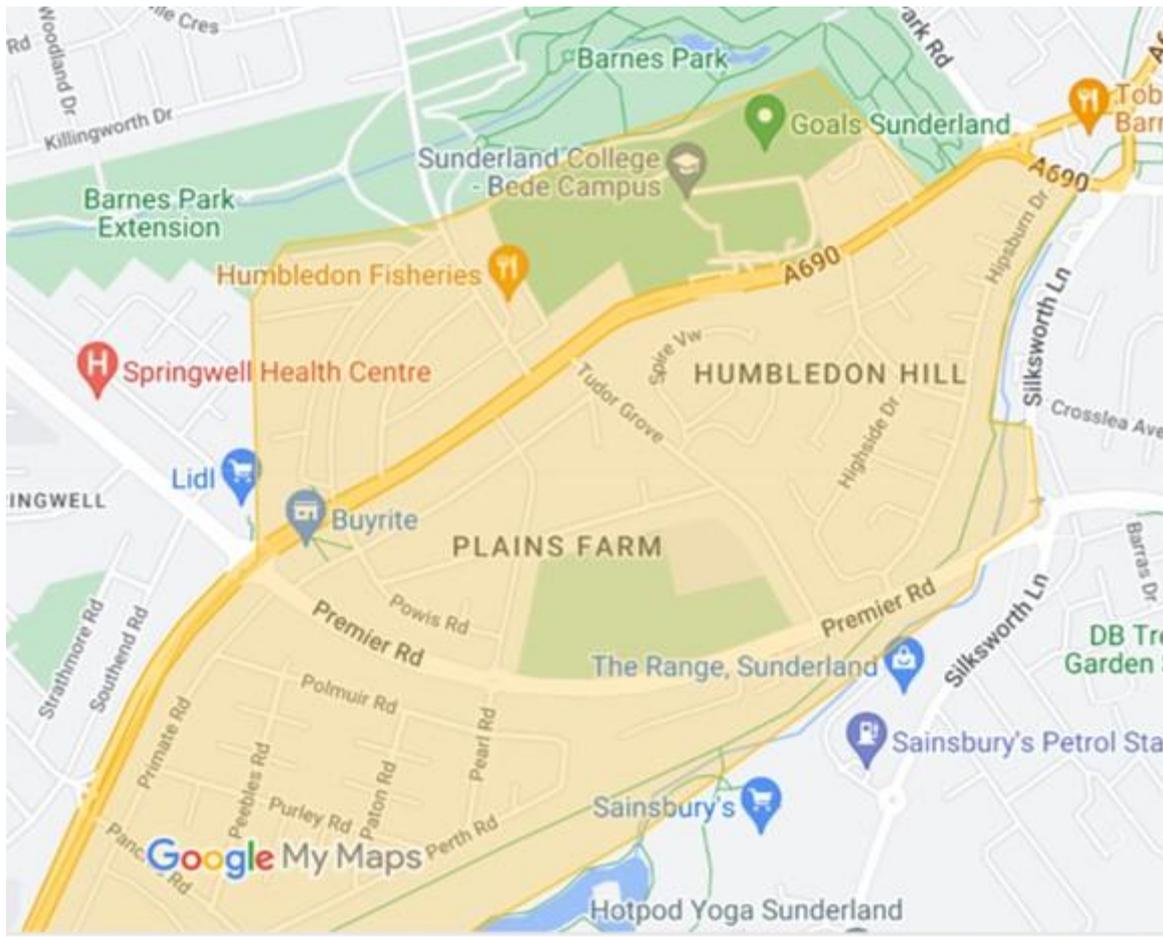
We therefore ask the Commission to include all parts of Humbledon in the St Chad's Ward by including the Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue area in this ward, together with neighbouring parts of Durham Road and Etrick Grove.

Our suggested amended boundary to this ward is detailed in the figures below. The map is available to view at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=18wSbEWXNNAAtKwxxq8iGALU1IJ1oPsVs&usp=sharing>



Suggested revised boundary for the St Chad's Ward



A more detailed view of the proposed revised boundary in the Humbledon Hill area.

Ward name:

As mentioned in Liberal Democrats submissions at previous stages of the process, we do not believe that ward names should be named after parishes, churches or places that do not actually exist.

Whilst acknowledging the difficulty in finding a name that accurately describes the communities in this ward, Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that naming the ward after actual communities it contains is far preferable than a name that means nothing to residents in the ward.

We therefore propose 'Farringdon and Humbledon' as a ward name, reflecting the estate of Farringdon in the south and Humbledon Hill to the north which covers both the Humbledon area itself around the Shaftesbury Avenue and Seaforth Road area, as well as Plains Farm estate which also lies on Humbledon Hill.

If the Commission does not adopt Liberal Democrat proposals to include the Shaftesbury Crescent/Stamford Avenue/Shrewsbury Crescent part of Humbledon in this ward and instead retains them in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, then we would not suggesting including Humbledon in the ward name, as this would mean a large part of Humbledon is not included in the ward of the same name. We therefore suggest 'Plains Farm and Farringdon' would be a better ward name in these circumstances.

Houghton and Hetton

4.16 Proposed Copt Hill Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would be happy to accept this proposed ward which has a clear and identifiable boundary along the A690.

Ward name:

We believe the name 'Copt Hill' to be one which alienates residents as there is no such community as 'Copt Hill'. Whilst it is the name of a local hill and a public house, we do not believe that it adequately reflects the communities in Hetton, Houghton and Rainton Bridge that are contained within the ward.

We do not believe that continuing to have a ward named 'Copt Hill' has any merit, and therefore ask that the Commission chooses an alternative name that better reflects the areas contained within it and helps residents to easily identify the ward in which they live and therefore the councillors that represent them.

Liberal Democrats believe that 'Houghton East' would be a more suitable name, as this ward contains a large portion of the town of Houghton le Spring east of the A690. Whilst the ward also contains Rainton Bridge and the Hetton Downs area of Hetton-le-Hole, both of these communities see themselves as part of the wider Houghton area, have a Houghton postal address and post code, and have affinity with that town.

We therefore believe that the name 'Houghton East' or 'Houghton East and Hetton Downs' would be the most appropriate name for this ward.

4.17 Proposed Herrington & Newbottle Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would be happy to accept this ward containing the communities of West Herrington, New Herrington, Herrington Burn, Philadelphia, Newbottle and norther parts of Houghton.

Ward name:

We believe that this ward name would create a lot of confusion and needs to be adapted.

This is because if someone refers to living in 'Herrington' this usually means 'East Herrington' which is not a part of this ward. Herrington only referring to West Herrington/New Herrington but not East Herrington would create confusion as to which ward people live in and which councillors represent them.

Liberal Democrats would prefer the ward name to be simply 'Newbottle' which refers to the community in the geographic centre of the ward and which neighbours all other parts of it.

Alternatively 'West Herrington and Newbottle' or 'Houghton North and Newbottle' would be more appropriate and less confusing than including just the name 'Herrington' in this ward when it does not include East Herrington.

4.18 Proposed Hetton Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats would support the boundaries in this area as proposed. We believe that the Commission's proposal to use Hetton Burn as a boundary better reflects the division of communities than the existing boundary in this area along Houghton Road (A182).

Ward name:

We agree that 'Hetton' is a simple, clear and appropriate name for this ward.

4.19 Proposed Houghton Ward

Boundaries:

If the Commission goes ahead with its decision to have 5 wards in the Houghton & Hetton areas west of the A19, we would support a ward as proposed containing parts of Houghton west of the A690 together with neighbouring communities of Fence Houses and East Rainton.

Ward name:

Whilst this ward is based largely on the existing Houghton Ward, we believe that continuing with the name 'Houghton Ward' will create confusion as large parts of the town of Houghton are included in the proposed Copt Hill and Newbottle wards.

People living in the town of Houghton but in those two wards would understandably think that they live in Houghton Ward if there is a ward of that name.

Instead of following the existing name of Houghton for the sake of continuity, we believe that an alternative name would be preferable to distinguish this ward from others in the Houghton area.

'Houghton West' or 'Fence Houses and East Rainton' would be clearer names in our opinion.

4.20 Proposed Penshaw & Shiney Row Ward

Boundaries:

We would support the boundaries as proposed for this ward which follows clear and identifiable boundaries to separate the Shiney Row and Penshaw areas to neighbouring communities to the south of them.

Ward name:

We are happy to have both distinct communities of Penshaw and Shiney Row included in the ward name for the district which contains them both.

Washington

4.21 Proposed Albany & Biddick Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposed Albany and Biddick Ward which ensures that distinct village communities are not split between wards, and agree with the Commission's inclusion of Biddick School in the ward of the same name.

Ward name:

We support the ward name reflecting large communities at either end of the ward, and believe that naming the ward after villages is preferable to naming Washington ward after compass points as this ensures that it is easier for residents to identify and have affinity with the ward in which they live.

4.22 Proposed Ayton & Springwell Village Ward

Boundaries:

We support the Commission's proposal for distinct village communities in the west of Washington to be represented together in a ward.

Ward name:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed ward name, including reference to 'Springwell Village' to avoid confusion with Springwell estate in the proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward.

4.23 Proposed Barmston & Sulgrave Ward

Boundaries:

We are happy to support the proposed boundaries in this ward which keep village communities whole rather than splitting them across ward boundaries.

Ward name:

We support the proposed ward name for this ward, believing it to be preferable to a name reflecting a compass point.

4.24 Proposed Concord Ward

Boundaries:

We believe that the boundary makes sense as it puts neighbouring communities in the north of Washington in a single ward, representing a sensible and cohesive area.

Ward name:

We agree with the proposed name of Concord Ward reflecting the largest single community in the ward.

4.25 Proposed Riverside Ward

Boundaries:

Liberal Democrats support the proposed boundaries in this area, bringing together communities in the southern part of Washington together with the neighbouring estate of Mount Pleasant on the south side of Fatfield Bridge.

Ward name:

We would like the Commission to rethink the proposed name of 'Riverside Ward'. The name Riverside does not reflect a real or identifiable community. We believe that this would make it difficult for residents to identify which ward they live in.

The name 'Riverside' is also problematic because many parts of the city of Sunderland are thought of as being on the riverside along the length of the River Wear. Specifically, the development of the former Vaux brewery site and neighbouring areas of Deptford and Ayres Quay on the outskirts of the city centre is known and is being marketed as 'Riverside Sunderland'. Further details are available at www.riversidesunderland.com .

We therefore believe that a 'Riverside Ward' would create confusion as to where it is located and which communities are represented within it, particularly as an area of the city centre has the same name.

Liberal Democrats ask the Commission to re-name the ward after the community of Fatfield. Not only is this community at the heart of the proposed ward, it is also the name of the bridge which links the Washington side of the River Wear with the Mount Pleasant area on the southern side.

Residents in Mount Pleasant are aware of their proximity to Fatfield and that they share Fatfield Bridge with communities in Washington north of the River. Calling this area 'Fatfield Ward' would mean that communities on both sides of the River can identify the ward and have affinity with its name.

5. Merits of reverting to proposals for a Herrington Ward, Tunstall & Humbledon Ward and Silksworth & Farringdon Ward

Wearside Liberal Democrats believe that there is merit in reverting to the previous proposals in terms of warding arrangements that included a 'Tunstall and Humbledon' Ward, a 'Silksworth and Farringdon' Ward and a cross-A19 'Herrington' Ward.

As outlined in our previous submissions, we believe that East, Middle, West and New Herrington all share community links and facilities, and that there are several walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them. These communities share community groups, youth groups like Scouts and Guides, doctors surgeries, open and recreational spaces and public houses like The Stackyard and The Stables. There are good walking, cycling, road and public transport links between them.

We also continue to believe that a Silksworth and Farringdon Ward has merit as a cohesive set of adjacent communities containing Silksworth, Gilley Law/Lakeside and Farringdon. We believe that the numerous resident submissions during the last consultation to keep Silksworth in one ward rather than being split across two could be achieved by including the streets south of Tunstall Village Road in the Silksworth and Farringdon Ward, rather than including the Tunstall/Ashbrooke area as far north as Queen Alexandra Road. The numerous submissions from residents requested that all parts of Silksworth either side of Tunstall Village Road were included in one ward, rather than any objections to being in a ward shared with Farringdon.

Returning to this pattern of warding would also ensure a fairer distribution of electors across the city. We have some concerns that having 5 wards in the Houghton and Hetton area exclusively east of the A19 means a significant number of those wards are significantly under-quota, with most of them being at -10%.

In contrast, all wards east of the A19 and south of the River Wear in Sunderland are above quota, with Grangetown, Deptford & Hendon and Pallion & Ford wards all at 10%. We believe there is merit in re-introducing a Herrington Ward including East, Middle, New and West Herrington, together with Herrington Burn, Newbottle and Philadelphia that would represent a cohesive community and ensure that there is a better distribution of electors across all 25 wards in the city.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, we ask the Commission to consider the merits of returning to a warding pattern that includes a cross-A19 Herrington Ward. If the Commission decides not to do so, then we believe the proposed wards would be significantly improved by:

- Removing the small part of Humbledon from Grindon and Thorney Close Ward and transferring it to the St Chads Ward.
- Ensuring Lufton Close and Cedar Way are included in Ryhope Ward instead of Doxford Park Ward

- Making sure all streets which see themselves as Roker are included in Roker Ward by slightly altering the boundary between Roker and Fulwell Wards along Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road.