

# New electoral arrangements for Sunderland City Council Final Recommendations

July 2024

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Sunderland City Council

Electoral review

July 2024

## Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

## Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2024

## A note on our mapping:

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

# Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Sunderland?	2
Our proposals for Sunderland	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	7
New draft recommendations consultation	8
Final recommendations	8
North-West Sunderland	10
North-East Sunderland	13
South Sunderland	16
Coalfield	20
Washington	22
Conclusions	25
Summary of electoral arrangements	25
Parish electoral arrangements	25
What happens next?	27
Equalities	29
Appendices	31
Appendix A	31
Final recommendations for Sunderland City Council	31
Appendix B	34
Outline map	34
Appendix C	36
Submissions received	36
Appendix D	38





# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

## What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.



## Why Sunderland?

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

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

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

## Our proposals for Sunderland

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

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

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Sunderland.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

---

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



## Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Sunderland. We then held three periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

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



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

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

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

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

warding schemes devised by political groups to be revised accordingly. We accepted this request and extended the consultation deadline from 17 July 2023 to 31 July 2023.

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

## Number of councillors

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

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

27 As Sunderland City Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend uniform patterns in the number of councillors per ward or division if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

28 We received four submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our new draft recommendations. Two submissions claimed the number of councillors needed to be reduced but did not provide evidence or reasoning as to why, while the other two spoke out against any increase in the number of councillors. We have maintained 75 councillors for Sunderland as part of our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 41 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two city-wide proposals from Sunderland Conservatives ('the Conservatives'), as well as Wearside Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Democrat Group on Sunderland City Council ('the Liberal Democrats'). We also received two partial schemes from Houghton & Sunderland South Constituency Labour Party and Washington & Sunderland West Constituency Labour Party. There was no Labour submission for the area covered by the Sunderland Central constituency. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for

---

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

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

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

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

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

## Draft recommendations consultation

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

34 A significant proportion of the submissions expressed concern with our draft recommendations in the areas of Hollycarrside and Silksworth; concerns we

considered could only be addressed by significantly redrawing the warding pattern for the South Sunderland area. This most notably resulted in the disappearance of Tunstall & Humbledon ward and the introduction of a new St. Chad's ward. This had knock-on effects in the southern region of the authority which, together with locally proposed changes to the warding pattern in North-East and North-West Sunderland, as well as more minor changes in Washington, meant we proposed a drastically new warding pattern for the City.

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

## New draft recommendations consultation

36 We received 415 submissions in response to our consultation on our new draft recommendations. These included submissions from Sunderland Conservative Group, Sunderland Labour Group and Sunderland Liberal Democrat Group with Wearside Liberal Democrats, which addressed with the whole authority area. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our new draft proposals for Herrington & Newbottle, Silksworth and St. Chad's wards, the majority of which were negative. We also received a large number of submissions in support for our proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward.

## Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for 25 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 Our final recommendations are based on our initial draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in the Sunderland city area based on elements of our new draft recommendations and the submissions received. We also make a minor modification to the boundaries between Washington Central and Washington East wards.

39 The tables and maps on pages 10–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Sunderland. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

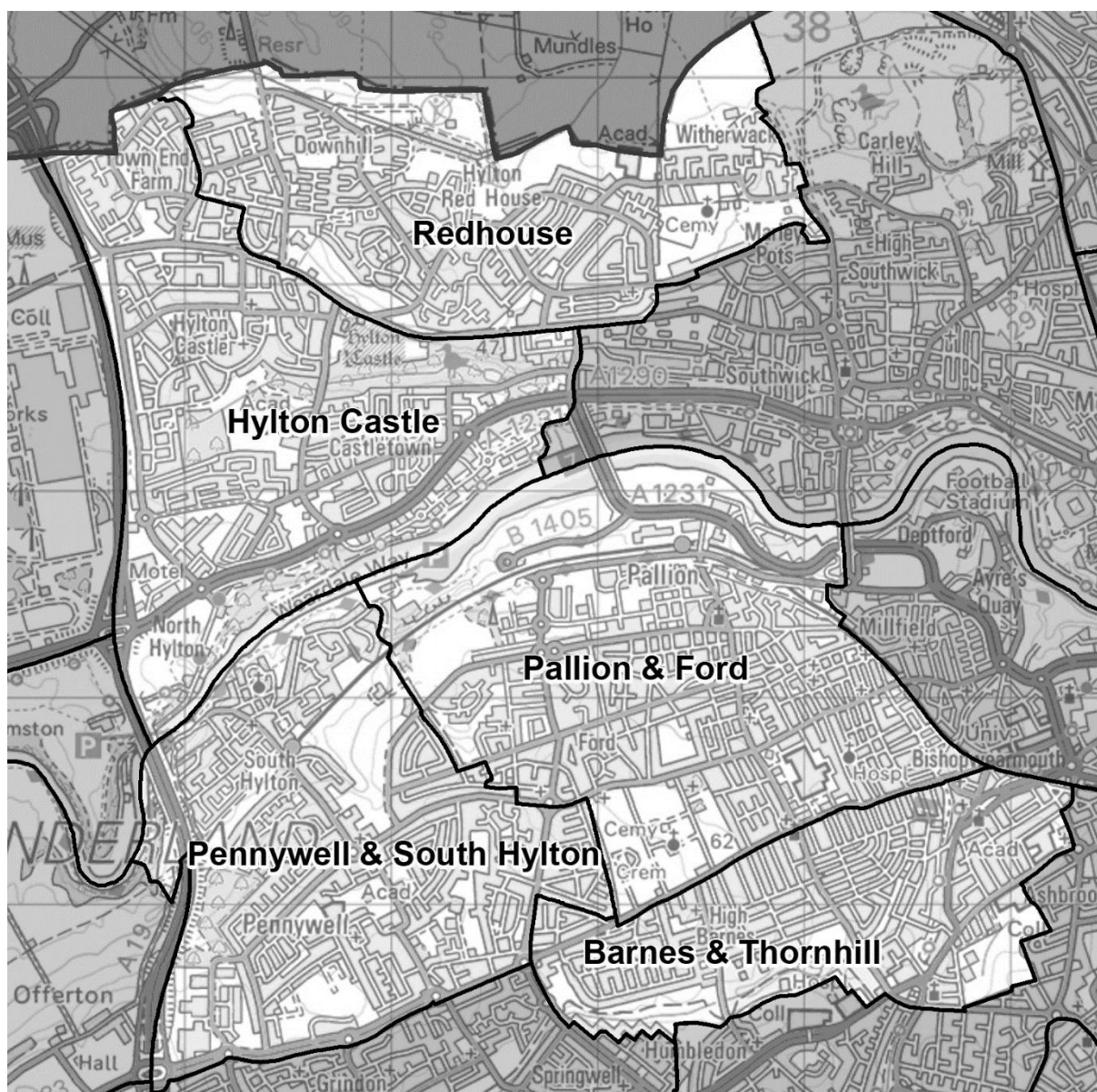
---

<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.



## North-West Sunderland



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

### *Barnes & Thornhill*

41 We received predominantly supportive submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for Barnes & Thornhill. A large share of the submissions from residents supported the inclusion of High Barnes north of The Broadway, which had previously been included in our draft Pallion ward, as this was considered an integral

part of the Barnes community. This was also supported by the Liberal Democrats, who had originally made the suggestion.

42 One submission from a resident opposed the division of Barnes Park Extension between Barnes & Thornhill and Grindon & Thorney Close wards along the footpath. The boundary was actually drawn along the adjacent Barnes Burn in our new draft recommendations, but we were persuaded that the entire park should be included in Barnes & Thornhill ward and have redrawn the boundary accordingly in our final recommendations. The resident also opposed the pairing of Barnes and Thornhill but did not elaborate on why.

43 The Conservative submission questioned our inclusion of part of the Ashbrooke area west of Tunstall Road in Barnes & Thornhill ward suggesting it was not reflective of community identities and interests. This particular change was made to ensure good electoral equality for the wider area and, more specifically, in our proposed Grangetown ward. A submission from Ashmore Residents' Association characterised this as 'totally unacceptable'. As we have not carried our new draft recommendations for South Sunderland into our final recommendations, this specific change is no longer necessary. Therefore, in our final recommendations, we have instead drawn the boundary down Thornholme Road, the school sites and Queen Alexandra Road, as proposed by the Liberal Democrats in the previous consultation period.

#### *Pallion & Ford and Pennywell & South Hylton*

44 We received 10 submissions from residents in response to our new draft recommendations for Pallion & Ford and Pennywell & South Hylton, six of which were supportive, mostly supporting the inclusion of both High Ford and Low Ford in the proposed Pallion & Ford ward. Two of these submissions cited shared amenities such as Highfield Academy, Ford Football Hub, Blackie Park and Hylton Road Playing Fields. Three submissions also favoured the inclusion of the Hylton Lane Estate in Pennywell & South Hylton, citing shared amenities such as King George V Playing Fields and shops on Hylton Road.

45 Other submissions argued against the continued exclusion of Top Ford from Pallion & Ford ward, citing concerns about access to funding, division in the community and a fear of being 'forgotten'. One submission expressed concern about a reduced number of schools in the proposed ward. However, no schools are being excluded from these proposals vis-à-vis the existing Pallion boundaries. While we recognise that residents in Top Ford feel closely connected to High Ford and Low Ford, it remains the case that including the area in the ward would create poor electoral equality, at 14%. Having carefully considered the evidence received, we have decided to confirm our new draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

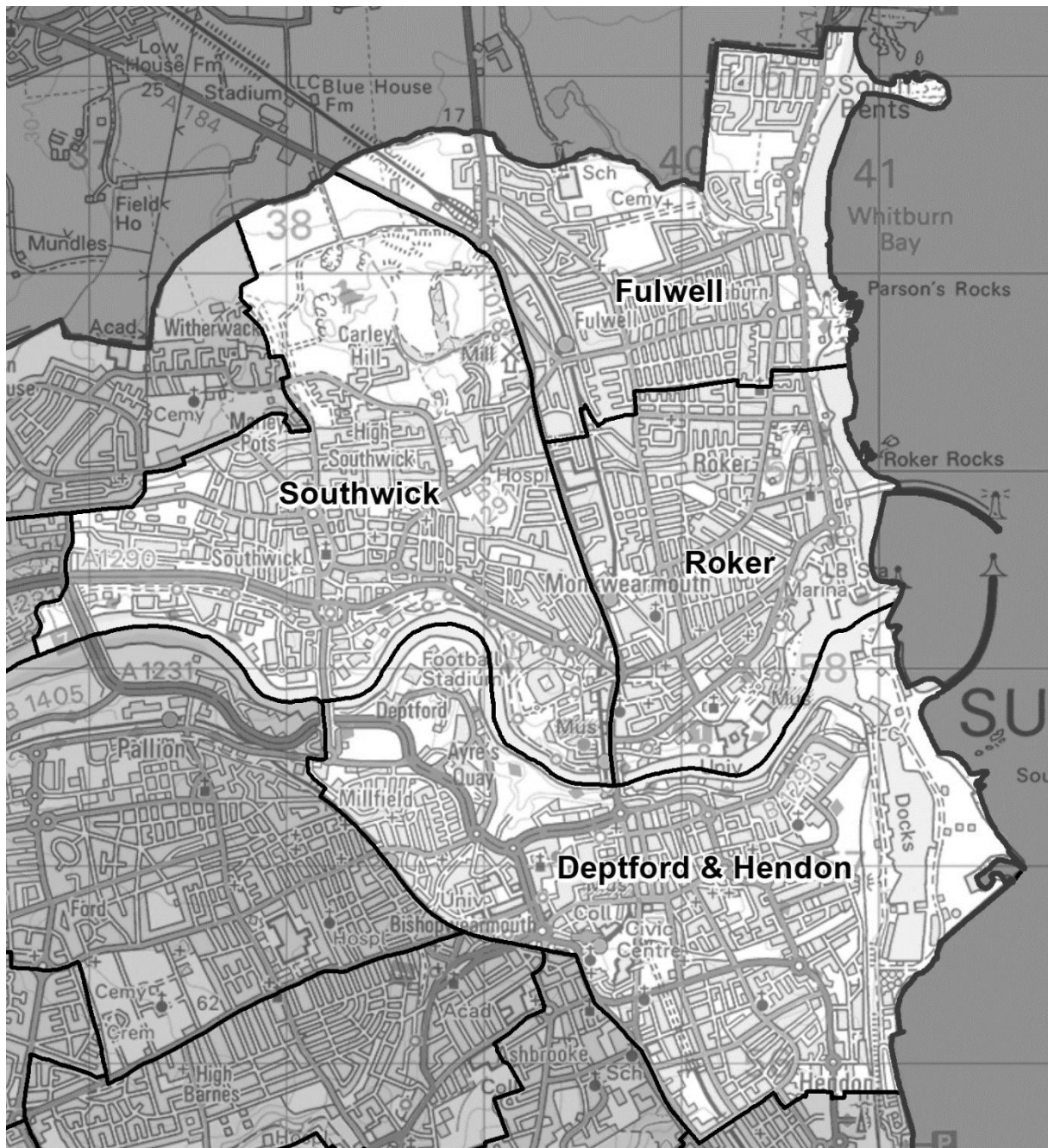
#### *Hylton Castle and Redhouse*

46 We received comparatively few submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for Hylton Castle and Redhouse wards. The Liberal Democrat submission strongly supported the proposed ward names, citing Redhouse as the largest settlement in the eponymous ward and 'Hylton Castle' as referring to both the castle and housing estate in the ward. The Labour Group continued to take a different view, however, preferring 'Redhill' and 'Castle', respectively. The Group also suggested the alternative names of 'Hylton Redhouse' and 'Downhill & Hylton Redhouse', citing consistency with using housing estates for the names of the wards. We considered these suggestions but determined that the evidence supports confirming our ward names for this area as final.

47 The submissions from the Labour Group and Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party both supported the inclusion of Marley Pots in Southwick rather than Redhouse ward. One resident disputed this, arguing the area should be in Redhouse, but did not elaborate on why. We are therefore content to confirm our new draft recommendations for Hylton Castle and Redhouse wards as final.



## North-East Sunderland



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Deptford & Hendon	3	5%
Fulwell	3	3%
Roker	3	-4%
Southwick	3	-3%

### *Deptford & Hendon*

48 The Liberal Democrats and the Labour Group were content with our proposed Deptford & Hendon ward, though the Conservatives expressed concern about the relatively high electoral variance of 10%, citing the area as one containing a large number of unregistered voters. They explained that this was due to the large proportion of Houses of Multiple Occupation, the tenants of which they claimed to be more transient than the general population, as well as the area being one in which there were large numbers of both student and foreign national residents.

49 Differential levels of registration is not a matter we can consider when determining ward boundaries. However, in our new draft recommendations, the streets bounded by Belvedere Road, Claremont Terrace, Stockton Road and Tunstall Road were included in Deptford & Hendon ward for the sake of electoral equality, as the surrounding wards of Grangetown and Barnes & Thornhill had variances of 10% and 8%, respectively. As our final recommendations for South Sunderland are more closely based on our initial draft recommendations, however, this area now fits comfortably into Tunstall & Humbledon ward. We have therefore not included it in Deptford & Hendon. The ward is consequently left with a variance of 5%, as in our initial draft recommendations.

50 One resident objected to the proposed ward on the basis that areas which identified as Hendon would not be included in the ward. However, as addressed in previous reports, Hendon is too populous to be represented by a single three-councillor ward. Another resident supported the choice of Villette Road as the boundary between Hendon and Grangetown wards owing to its clarity and there being 'no obvious boundary between Grangetown and Hendon', as well as many residents of the 'long streets' identifying with Grangetown over Hendon. Councillor Ciaran Morrissey also expressed his approval of Villette Road as a 'clear, natural boundary'. We have therefore based our final recommendations for this ward on the initial draft recommendations, albeit renamed 'Deptford & Hendon', as in our new draft recommendations.

### *Fulwell, Roker and Southwick*

51 We received predominantly positive responses to our new draft recommendations for Fulwell, particularly with regard to the boundary with Southwick ward, which we moved back to Newcastle Road from the railway line. This was made possible by moving Marley Potts from Southwick to Redhouse ward (see paragraph 47) and we have therefore confirmed this boundary in our final recommendations. A Seaburn resident commented that this should be included in the name of Fulwell ward but did not provide supporting evidence.

52 A number of submissions proposed revised boundaries between Fulwell and Roker wards. The Conservatives proposed Neale Street be used a boundary instead of Browne Road and that the boundary follow the rear of Christal Terrace, Dale Terrace, Coley Terrace and Elvington Street. This was proposed as being simpler for

electors and on the basis of Elvington Street being part of Roker - though a Neale Street boundary would still place it in Fulwell ward. We were receptive to the argument for greater simplicity in the interests of effective and convenient local government. However, as Neale Street is a relatively narrow street of facing houses, we felt Browne Road with its predominantly side-on housing would be a more appropriate boundary. Drawing the boundary down the middle of Browne Road would also ensure Elvington Street was included in Roker.

53 The Labour Group and Liberal Democrats welcomed the proposed boundaries. However, while the Labour Group was strongly against any further changes, the Liberal Democrats proposed extending the Roker boundary east of Mere Knolls Road northward to Chichester Road, as with the current boundaries. The submission states that this proposal has come from further discussions with residents. This proposal, taken in isolation, would result in electoral variances of -7% in Fulwell and 6% in Roker.

54 A resident wrote to say that both the Southwick Green and Dundas Street areas – which are in our proposed Southwick and Roker wards, respectively – should be in the same ward and that areas east of Church Street are significantly different. The same resident also said Clifton Road and Stanhope Road should not be in Roker ward as they were ‘isolated’ and look to Roker Park rather than Fulwell Library. This was supported by another resident who proposed new boundaries for all three wards, extending Southwick ward across North Bridge Street to Roker Avenue, Church Street North and Dame Dorothy Street. They also proposed adding Rushcliffe to Fulwell and moving the boundary between Fulwell and Roker ward to Neale Street, Mere Knolls Road and Chichester Road. This produced good electoral equality in the wards with -2% for Fulwell, -2% for Roker and 0% for Southwick.

55 We gave the residents’ proposals careful consideration and recognise the good levels of electoral equality they produce in all three wards. However, we concluded that we had not received sufficient evidence in support of such changes at this late stage of the review, which we must balance against the numerous submissions received providing evidence and support for the boundaries as proposed, including in the previous stages of consultation. We have therefore adopted our new draft recommendations with the minor amendment mentioned in paragraph 52 in our final recommendations.



## South Sunderland



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Doxford Park	3	1%
Farrington & Silksworth	3	8%
Grangetown	3	-5%
Grindon & Thorney Close	3	0%
Ryhope	3	5%
Tunstall & Humbleton	3	0%

56 The majority of the submissions received in response to our new draft recommendations – 81% – addressed our proposals in this area. The majority of these – 73% – were negative. Objections centred principally on the proposed St. Chad’s ward and the inclusion of Plains Farm, the division of Herrington along the A19, the joining of Silksworth with part of Tunstall, the inclusion of part of Humbleton in Grindon & Thorney Close and the addition of parts of Ashbrooke into Grangetown.



57 As detailed in our new draft recommendations report, these proposals were formulated in response to objections to elements of our draft recommendations, principally Hollycarrside being split between Grangetown and Ryhope wards and parts of Silksworth being excluded from Farringdon & Silksworth ward. We also considered that there was a lack of clarity over whether East Herrington, Middle Herrington, New Herrington and West Herrington constituted a single community, or whether the A19 functioned as a barrier dividing East Herrington and Middle Herrington from the other two. We consider the responses to our new draft recommendations to be decisive and, with the increased community evidence, have put forward final recommendations that more resemble our initial draft recommendations to better address these objections.

#### *Farringdon & Silksworth and Tunstall & Humbledon*

58 As mentioned above, a large proportion of the submissions received objected to our proposed St. Chad's ward and the pairing of Silksworth with part of Tunstall. Two petitions signed by 168 people also opposed the proposed ward. The objections had a high degree of consistency. Our St. Chad's ward, by including Plains Farm, Farringdon, West Herrington and East Herrington but excluding Lakeside/Gilley Law, was considered by many to be geographically and communally incoherent, grouping together communities which had little in common.

59 The inclusion of Plains Farm was particularly criticised. One resident, who had lived there since 1963, said Plains Farm had nothing to do with Farringdon and even less with Herrington, identifying more closely with Humbledon and Tunstall, and that North Moor Road served as a boundary. Another resident gave the example of running youth clubs and a seniors' coffee morning and art club in Plains Farm and Humbledon which did not attract anyone from Farringdon or Herrington. Yet another resident pointed out that Farringdon, Lakeside and Silksworth were easily walkable and were served by the same bus route.

60 The Conservatives' submission made similar points, such as the shared community centre and social club for Plains Farm and Humbledon residents. They also pointed to the shared Environmental Services ranger for Farringdon and Silksworth as being indicative of the geographical proximity of the two communities. The Conservatives also voiced many of the objections to the proposed Silksworth ward containing a large part of Tunstall, pointing to Tunstall's greater affinity and proximity to Humbledon and Ashbrooke as well as the large expanse of land between Silksworth and Tunstall. This was also supported by a petition signed by 350 people. Some submissions also objected to the division of Queen Alexandra Road between four wards. Similar objections were expressed by the Ashbrooke, Grangetown, Ryhope and Silksworth News Facebook group, St Michael's Residents' Association, Plains Farm, Humbledon & High Barnes Forum, Plains Farm Residents' Association and Councillor Dominic McDonough.

61 Having considered these objections, many of which stated unequivocally that the Herringtons functioned as a single community, we have decided to move away from our new draft recommendations and adapt our initial draft recommendations. Although there was some support from the Conservatives, a resident and Ashbrooke, Grangetown Ryhope and Silksworth News for Hollycarrside being returned to Grangetown ward, as in our draft recommendations, we have ruled this out due to the opposition and evidence received from residents in the previous round of consultation.

62 Our final recommendations for Tunstall & Humbledon therefore differ slightly from our initial draft recommendations. Whereas the boundary between the ward and Grangetown was previously Ashbrooke Range/Greystoke Avenue, we have moved this slightly west to Glen Path, Queen Alexandra Road and Tunstall Road. We appreciate from the evidence received that these residents identify with Tunstall rather than Grangetown. However, to include them in Tunstall & Humbledon ward would result in a -14% variance in Grangetown. Similarly, including Hollycarrside in Grangetown would result in a -19% variance in Ryhope. Ashbrooke is no longer included in Grangetown ward, however, and we have now included Ashbrooke streets west of Tunstall Road in Tunstall & Humbledon, as previously proposed by the Liberal Democrats. This results in a ward with the same electoral variance as our initial draft recommendations, 0%.

63 Our Farringdon & Silksworth ward is also based on our initial draft recommendations, albeit with the southern boundary extended to the existing boundary around St. Matthew's Church, Cambridge Road, Pembroke Avenue, Orr Avenue and Park Avenue. This ward is expected to have an 8% electoral variance by 2029.

#### *Doxford Park, Grangetown and Ryhope*

64 Our final recommendations for Doxford Park differ from both our initial and new draft recommendations based on the evidence received. The inclusion of Lakeside/Gilley Law in the ward in our new draft recommendations, which was done on the basis of electoral equality, proved to be unpopular. The Conservative submission pointed out the geographical distance between the area and the rest of Doxford and commented that many residents were elderly and either shopped locally or used buses to shop in Silksworth or Farringdon. The area is now part of our proposed Farringdon & Silksworth ward.

65 As mentioned above, the southern boundary of our proposed Farringdon & Silksworth ward follows the existing Silksworth ward boundary and, as such, we have included the remaining houses on the west side of Burdon Road, as well as those west of Eltham Road and south of Tunstall Bank/Tunstall Hope Road, in Doxford Park ward. All these properties are included within the boundaries of the existing Doxford ward, and we note that they are well connected to the rest of the ward via Burdon Road.

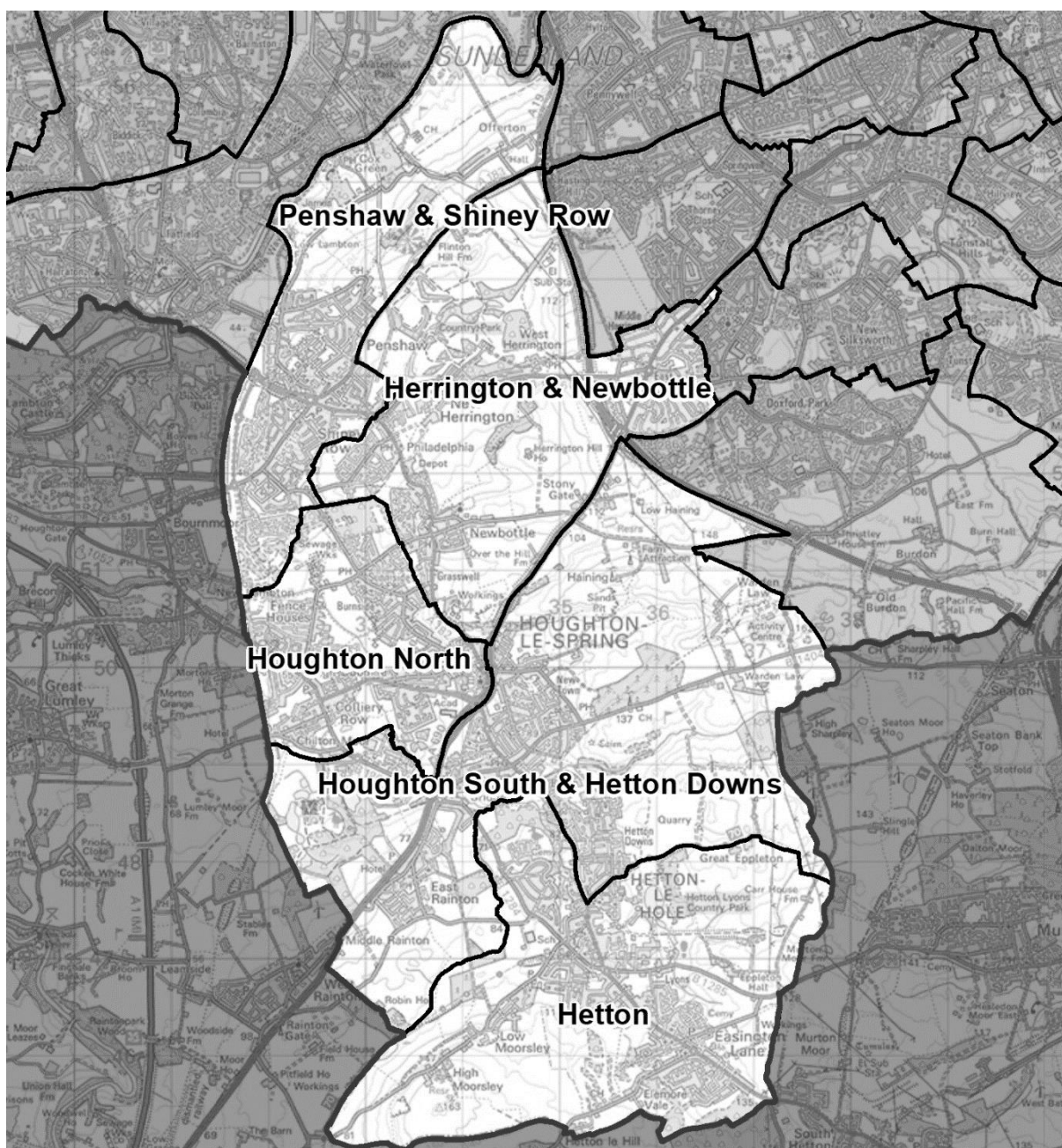
66 A final adjustment to our Doxford Park ward has been to move the boundary with Ryhope to the new Rotary Road. This was raised in multiple submissions, from councillors Heather Fagan and Lindsey Leonard and by a resident of Rockcliffe, who questioned why they had been included in Doxford Park ward when the rest of the estate was in Ryhope ward. Our boundary had been drawn around the locations of new developments in the area, the majority of which are on the Doxford side of Rotary Road. However, as pointed out by Councillor Leonard, the road was not yet present on all mapping. We have nonetheless taken these comments into account and drawn the boundary down Rotary Road, placing Rockcliffe in Ryhope ward.

#### *Grindon & Thorney Close*

67 We received 67 submissions in response to our proposed Grindon & Thorney Close ward, the majority of which were supportive of keeping Grindon, Hasting Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close estates together. However, we did also receive 14 submissions from residents, Councillor Stephen O'Brien, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, which opposed the inclusion of part of Humbledon west of Ettrick Grove in the ward. This had been done for reasons of electoral equality, as the area could not be included with the rest of Humbledon Hill in St. Chad's ward without creating electoral inequality in the ward.

68 However, as this is no longer necessary, we have instead adopted our initial draft recommendations for Sandhill (renamed Grindon & Thorney Close) with a very minor amendment to the boundary with Barnes & Thornhill ward so that all of the Barnes Park Extension is included in Barnes & Thornhill. This was in response to a resident's submission about the division of Barnes Park and does not affect any electors. Our final recommendations for Grindon & Thorney Close ward maintain the unity of Grindon, Hasting Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close estates.

## Coalfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Herrington & Newbottle	3	1%
Hetton	3	-3%
Houghton North	3	3%
Houghton South & Hetton Downs	3	-1%
Penshaw & Shiny Row	3	7%

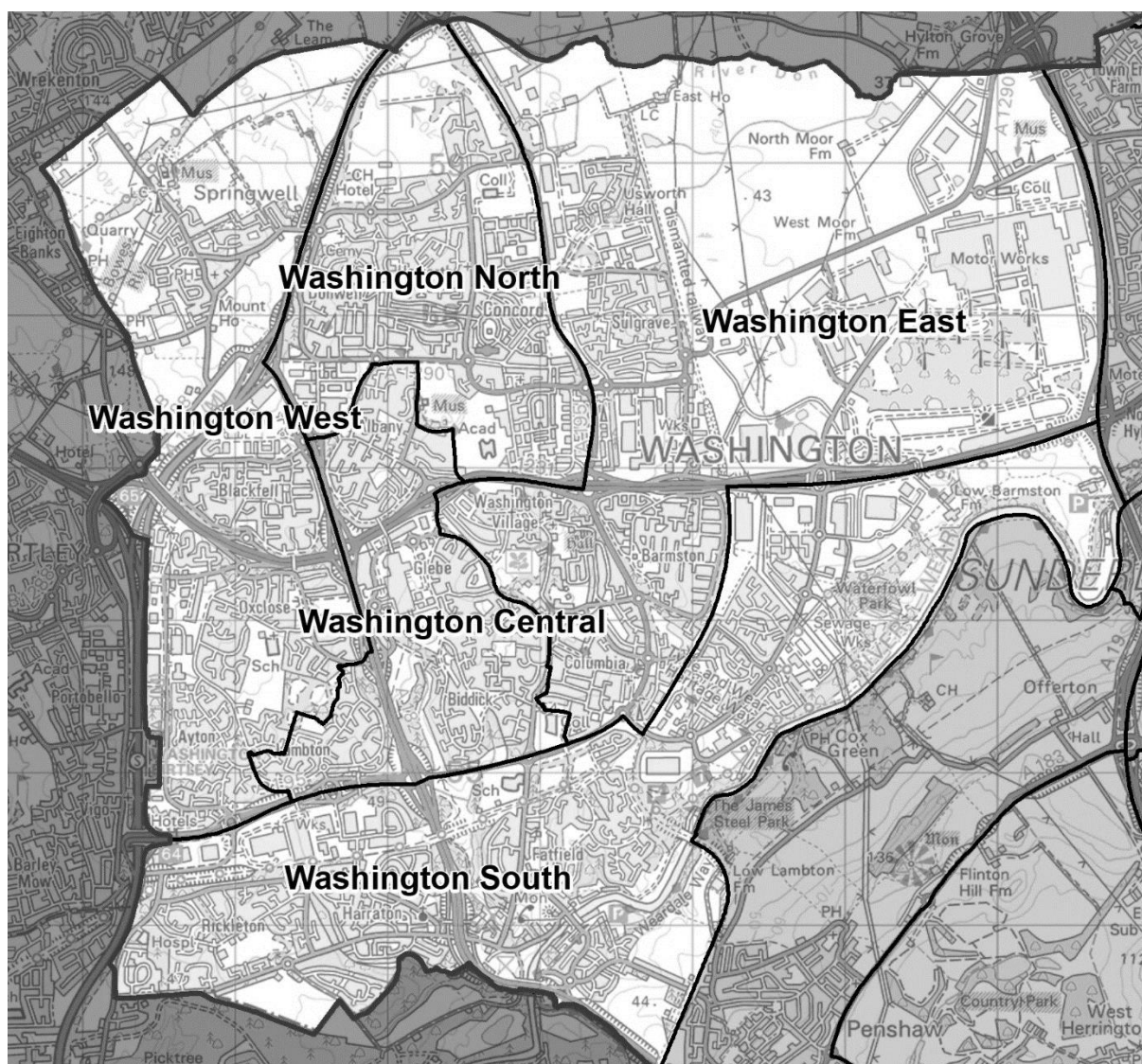


*Herrington & Newbottle, Hetton, Houghton North, Houghton South & Hetton Downs and Penshaw & Shiney Row*

69 We received 144 submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for the Coalfield area, a large number of which opposed the use of the A19 as a ward boundary to divide East Herrington and Middle Herrington on one side and New Herrington and West Herrington on the other. This included a petition signed by 67 people.

70 Two residents pointed out that the two sides of the A19 are accessible on foot via public footpaths and via public transport. An overwhelming number of submissions made also described Herrington as a single community. We have carefully considered the evidenced received and have been persuaded that reverting to our initial draft recommendations for the Coalfield area in our final recommendations will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria. Our final recommendations differ only in that we have carried over the names 'Penshaw & Shiney Row' and 'Herrington & Newbottle' from our new draft recommendations for Shiney Row and Herrington, respectively. We consider these ward names to be more representative of local communities.

## Washington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Washington Central	3	-4%
Washington East	3	-2%
Washington North	3	-6%
Washington South	3	2%
Washington West	3	0%

### *Washington Central, Washington East, Washington North, Washington South and Washington West*

71 We received 37 submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for Washington. The majority of these concerned the naming of the wards. In our initial draft recommendations we had continued the existing use of 'compass points' in the naming of the various Washington wards. However, we received conflicting evidence as to whether this was desirable due to the difference in boundaries, as most of what

is currently Washington North would find itself in Washington West, for example. Furthermore, the Conservatives had consistently used the names of local towns and villages in the naming of their proposed wards, and this approach was adopted by the Liberal Democrats in their second proposed warding scheme.

72 Having considered this approach in the light of our tour of the area, we decided to adopt it in our new draft recommendations, using a combination of the different names proposed by both groups and asking for responses from residents. Although there have been some submissions in support of this, the majority of responses from residents have been negative. In many cases, residents of the proposed wards whose locales were not included in its name objected to being left out. For example, a number of Oxclose residents objected to the village being left out of the name of 'Ayton & Springwell', while others objected to Washington Village and Columbia being left out of 'Barmston & Sulgrave'. Sharon Hodgson, MP for Washington & Gateshead South (formerly Washington & Sunderland West), commented that it was 'not representative to select two of the four village names, creating a two-tier naming system'.

73 Five submissions from residents supported the proposed names in our new draft recommendations, two of which cited potential confusion from the boundaries of the wards changing. However, having taken all of the submissions into account, we are of the opinion that maintaining the compass point convention for naming the wards remains the least disruptive and divisive approach, and so have adopted this in our final recommendations.

74 While most submissions appeared content with the boundaries as proposed, some proposed amendments or objected. The Conservatives proposed including Albany Park in our proposed Albany & Biddick (now Washington Central) ward, with the potential inclusion of Washington Academy. The submission did not specify whether this was because of the name of the park vis-à-vis the proposed ward but, as the park is accessible from both Washington West and Washington North, we are content for it to remain in the latter.

75 One resident objected to Springwell being included in a ward with Ayton, Lambton and Oxclose, arguing that the latter felt far from Springwell and were separated by the A1231. Another said Rickleton had closer relations with Ayton, Lambton and Oxclose than with Fatfield in Washington South, while another resident suggested that Concord and Sulgrave should be in the same ward. Another resident suggested that Teal Farm should be excluded from Washington South ward as 'there is no logical road connecting this estate with the other villages'. However, Teal Farm is connected to the ward via Northumberland Way and Pattinson Road, and adding it to Washington East ward would create electoral variances of 19% there and -18% in Washington South.

76 We considered these objections but remain of the view that the proposed boundaries will provide for better community representation than the existing



boundaries or the closely related boundaries proposed by the Labour Group, which we consider to arbitrarily divide communities in areas such as Lambton and Usworth. We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations for Washington as final, albeit using the ward names from our initial draft recommendations.

## Conclusions

77 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Sunderland, referencing the 2023 and 2029 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

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

#### Final recommendations

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

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Sunderland City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Sunderland City Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

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

79 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Sunderland City Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

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

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

#### Final recommendations

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

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

## What happens next?

82 We have now completed our review of Sunderland City Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2026.





## Equalities

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



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for Sunderland City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Barnes & Thornhill	3	8,391	2,797	1%	8,577	2,859	-3%
2	Deptford & Hendon	3	8,140	2,713	-2%	9,330	3,110	5%
3	Doxford Park	3	7,078	2,359	-15%	8,917	2,972	1%
4	Farringdon & Silksworth	3	9,083	3,028	10%	9,591	3,197	8%
5	Fulwell	3	8,773	2,924	6%	9,111	3,037	3%
6	Grangetown	3	8,234	2,745	-1%	8,390	2,797	-5%
7	Grindon & Thorney Close	3	8,655	2,885	5%	8,865	2,955	0%
8	Herrington & Newbottle	3	7,752	2,584	-6%	8,936	2,979	1%
9	Hetton	3	7,872	2,624	-5%	8,619	2,873	-3%
10	Houghton North	3	8,612	2,871	4%	9,151	3,050	3%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Houghton South & Hetton Downs	3	8,281	2,760	0%	8,716	2,905	-1%
12	Hylton Castle	3	8,049	2,683	-3%	8,261	2,754	-7%
13	Pallion & Ford	3	9,221	3,074	11%	9,711	3,237	10%
14	Pennywell & South Hylton	3	8,327	2,776	1%	8,796	2,932	-1%
15	Penshaw & Shiney Row	3	8,833	2,944	7%	9,457	3,152	7%
16	Redhouse	3	7,903	2,634	-5%	8,242	2,747	-7%
17	Roker	3	8,303	2,768	0%	8,486	2,829	-4%
18	Ryhope	3	8,057	2,686	-3%	9,275	3,092	5%
19	Southwick	3	7,555	2,518	-9%	8,553	2,851	-3%
20	Tunstall & Humbledon	3	8,526	2,842	3%	8,838	2,946	0%
21	Washington Central	3	8,211	2,737	-1%	8,485	2,828	-4%
22	Washington East	3	8,186	2,729	-1%	8,661	2,887	-2%
23	Washington North	3	7,569	2,523	-9%	8,289	2,763	-6%
24	Washington South	3	8,818	2,939	7%	9,062	3,021	2%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Washington West	3	8,542	2,847	3%	8,885	2,962	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>206,971</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>221,204</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>-</b>

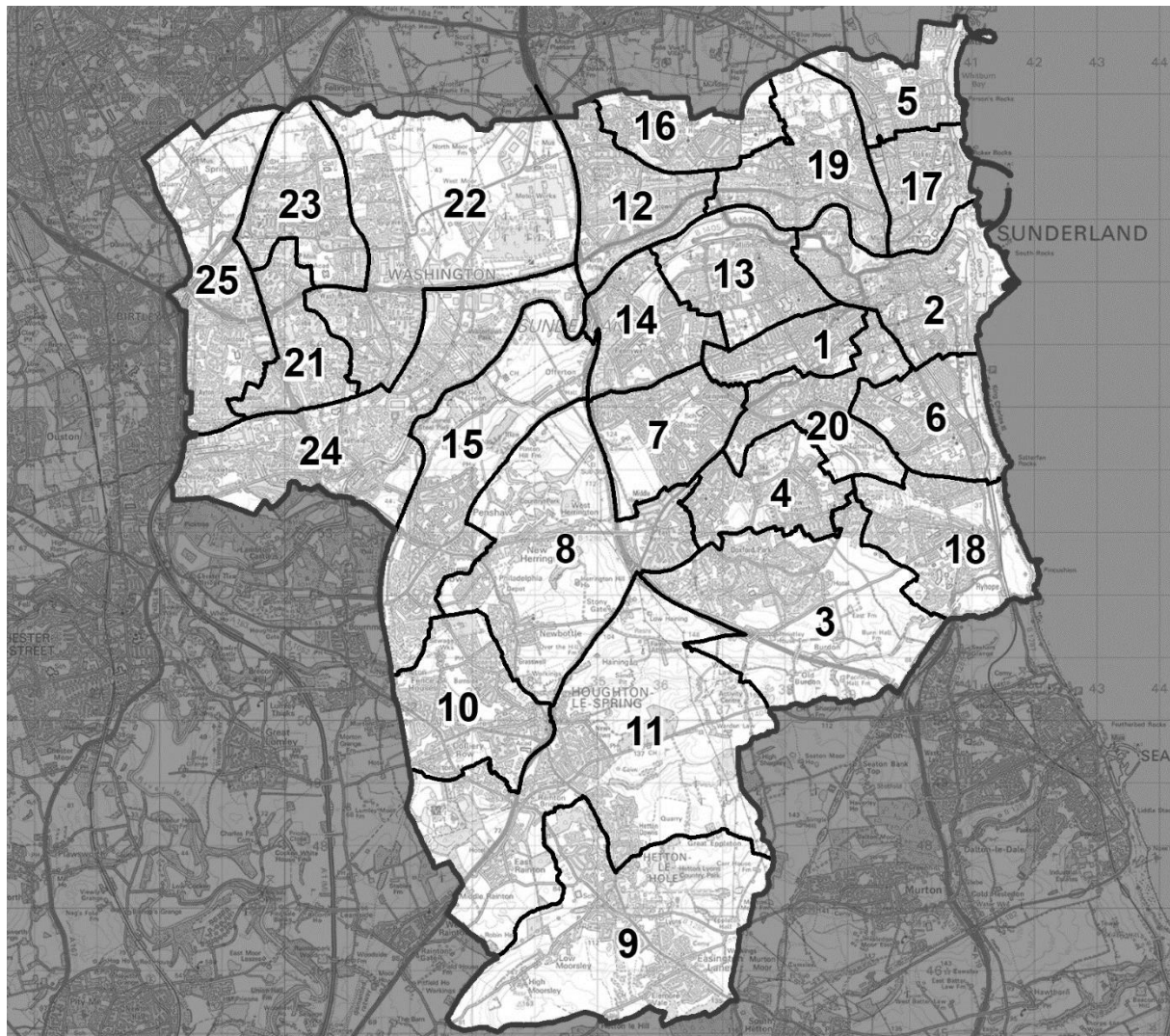
Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Sunderland City Council.

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



## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Barnes & Thornhill
2	Deptford & Hendon
3	Doxford Park
4	Farrington & Silksworth
5	Fulwell
6	Grangetown
7	Grindon & Thorney Close
8	Herrington & Newbottle
9	Hetton
10	Houghton North
11	Houghton South & Hetton Downs
12	Hylton Castle
13	Pallion & Ford

14	Pennywell & South Hylton
15	Penshaw & Shiney Row
16	Redhouse
17	Roker
18	Ryhope
19	Southwick
20	Tunstall & Humbledon
21	Washington Central
22	Washington East
23	Washington North
24	Washington South
25	Washington West

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

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sunderland>

#### *Political groups*

- Sunderland Central Constituency Labour Party
- Sunderland Conservative Group
- Sunderland Labour Group
- Sunderland Liberal Democrats and Wearside Liberal Democrats
- Washington & Gateshead South Constituency Labour Party
- Wearside Liberal Democrats

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor M. Bond (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Burrell (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor J. Chapman (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor M. Crosby (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor P. Edgeworth (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor H. Fagan (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor S. Johnston (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor L. Leonard (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor D. McDonough (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor C. Morrissey (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor A. Mullen (Sunderland City Council)
- Councillor S. O'Brien (Sunderland City Council)

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Sharon Hodgson (Washington & Gateshead South)

#### *Local organisations*

- Ashbrooke, Grangetown, Ryhope & Silksworth News
- Ashmore Residents' Association
- Barnes Residents' Association
- East Rainton Cricket Club
- Plains Farm Residents' Association

- Plains Farm, Humbledon & High Barnes Forum
- Ryhope Community Spirit
- St Michael's Residents' Association

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Hetton Town Council

#### *Local residents*

- 388 local residents

#### *Petitions*

- Four (contained in Councillor Mullen's submission)

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

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

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



### **Translations and other formats:**

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

### **Licensing:**

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2024

### **A note on our mapping:**

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

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for  
England  
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,  
London,  
EC1Y 8YZ

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525

**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**X:** @LGBCE