

New electoral arrangements for Newcastle City Council Final Recommendations

January 2025

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

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 2025

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 Newcastle?	2
Our proposals for Newcastle	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
Final recommendations	8
Northwest	9
Southwest and West	11
Northeast and Central	14
Southcentral	19
Southeast	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 Newcastle City Council	31
Appendix B	34
Outline map	34
Appendix C	35
Submissions received	35
Appendix D	36

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.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Newcastle?

7 We are conducting a review of Newcastle City Council ('the Council') as 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 Newcastle 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 Newcastle

9 Newcastle should be represented by 78 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Newcastle should have 26 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

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

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.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Newcastle. We then held two 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
16 January 2024	Number of councillors decided
23 January 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 April 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
9 July 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 January 2025	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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	2030
Electorate of Newcastle	186,080	200,854
Number of councillors	78	78
Average number of electors per councillor	2,386	2,575

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 Newcastle are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the original scheduled publication of our final recommendations in December 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2029.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. Due to the impact of the general election on the Commission's wider work programme, the review will

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

now conclude in January 2025. We are content that these figures remain a reasonable forecast of local electors in 2030 and have therefore used them as the basis of our final recommendations.

24 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

Number of councillors

25 Newcastle City Council currently has 78 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council's Labour Group ('Labour Group') 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 78 councillors. As Newcastle City Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁴ 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.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. A resident questioned the need for three councillors for each ward. The resident did not present evidence relating to the Council's decision-making structure and representational role of members to support these proposed reductions. Consequently, our final recommendations are based on a council represented by 78 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 39 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a city-wide scheme from the Newcastle Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') and city-wide comments from the Labour Group. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the city.

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

29 The city-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Newcastle. 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.

30 Our draft recommendations were based on proposals and comments from both the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats. We 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.

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

32 Our draft recommendations were for 26 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 100 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These were from councillors, local organisations and residents.

34 More than half of the submissions were about our draft recommendations for Jesmond. The other submissions focused on specific areas, including our proposals in Fenham, Dene, Denton, Gosforth and Westerhope.

35 We received a submission asking why we used electorate figures instead of population figures. We use electorate figures because the legislation says that we should. This means that we are unable to base our decisions on population figures.

36 We received a submission suggesting that the review be postponed because the Government is considering automatically enrolling people onto the electoral register. However, while the Government has stated that it is minded to look at various forms of automated registration, no decision has been made about changing the existing registration process. Therefore, we are continuing with our programme of work including this review.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for 26 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 the draft recommendations with a modification to the boundary between Jesmond and Ouseburn wards based on the submissions received. We also make a minor modification to the boundary between Benwell, Scotswood & Denton Burn and Elswick wards.

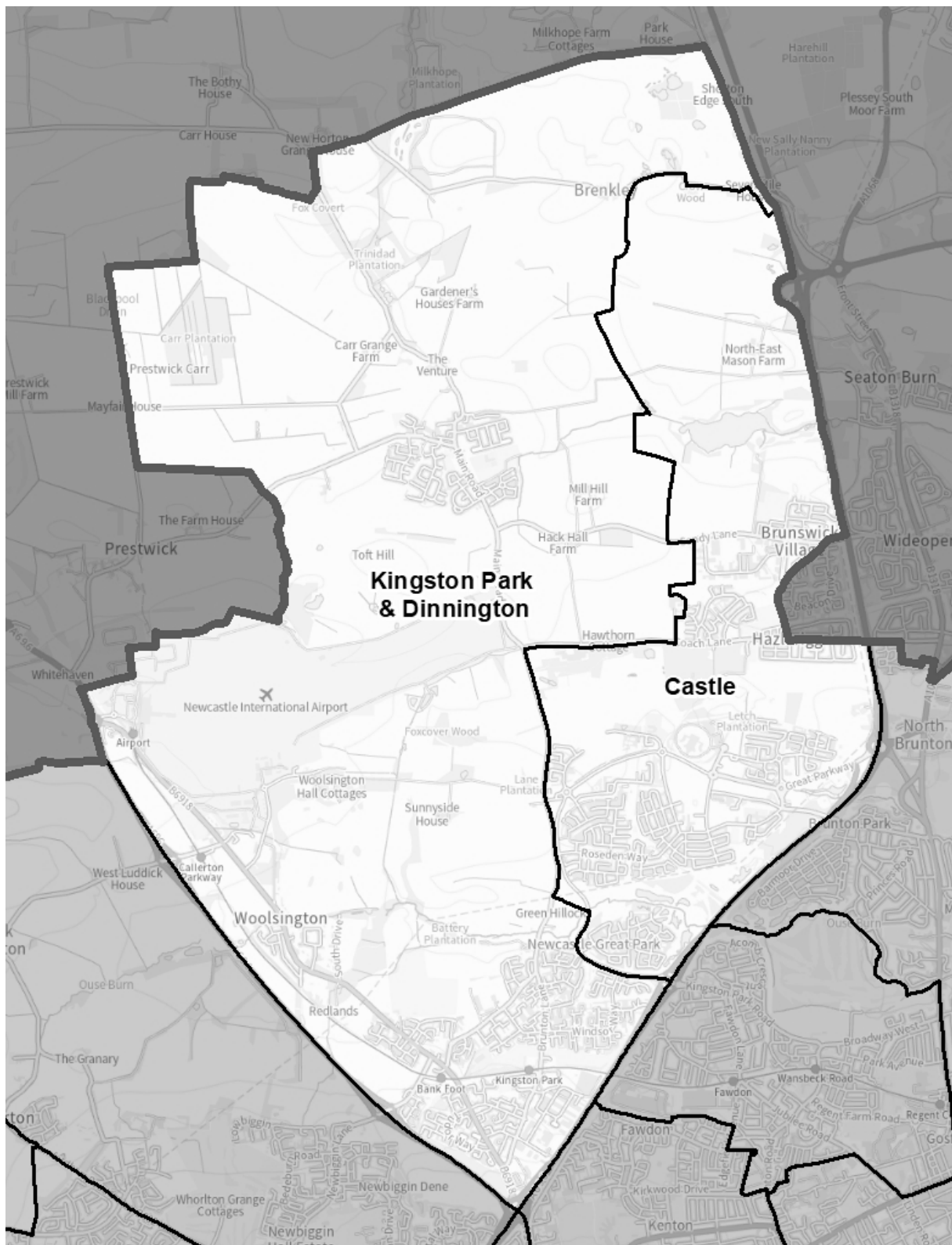
39 The tables and maps on pages 9–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Newcastle. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

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.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Northwest



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Castle	3	-2%
Kingston Park & Dinnington	3	3%

Castle and Kingston Park & Dinnington

41 We received submissions about this area of the city from Hazlerigg Parish Council and three residents.

42 Hazlerigg Parish Council expressed disappointment that Brunswick, Dinnington and Hazlerigg parishes could not be accommodated in the same ward but stated that it understood and accepted the reasons for that. It also supported the retention of Castle ward's name.

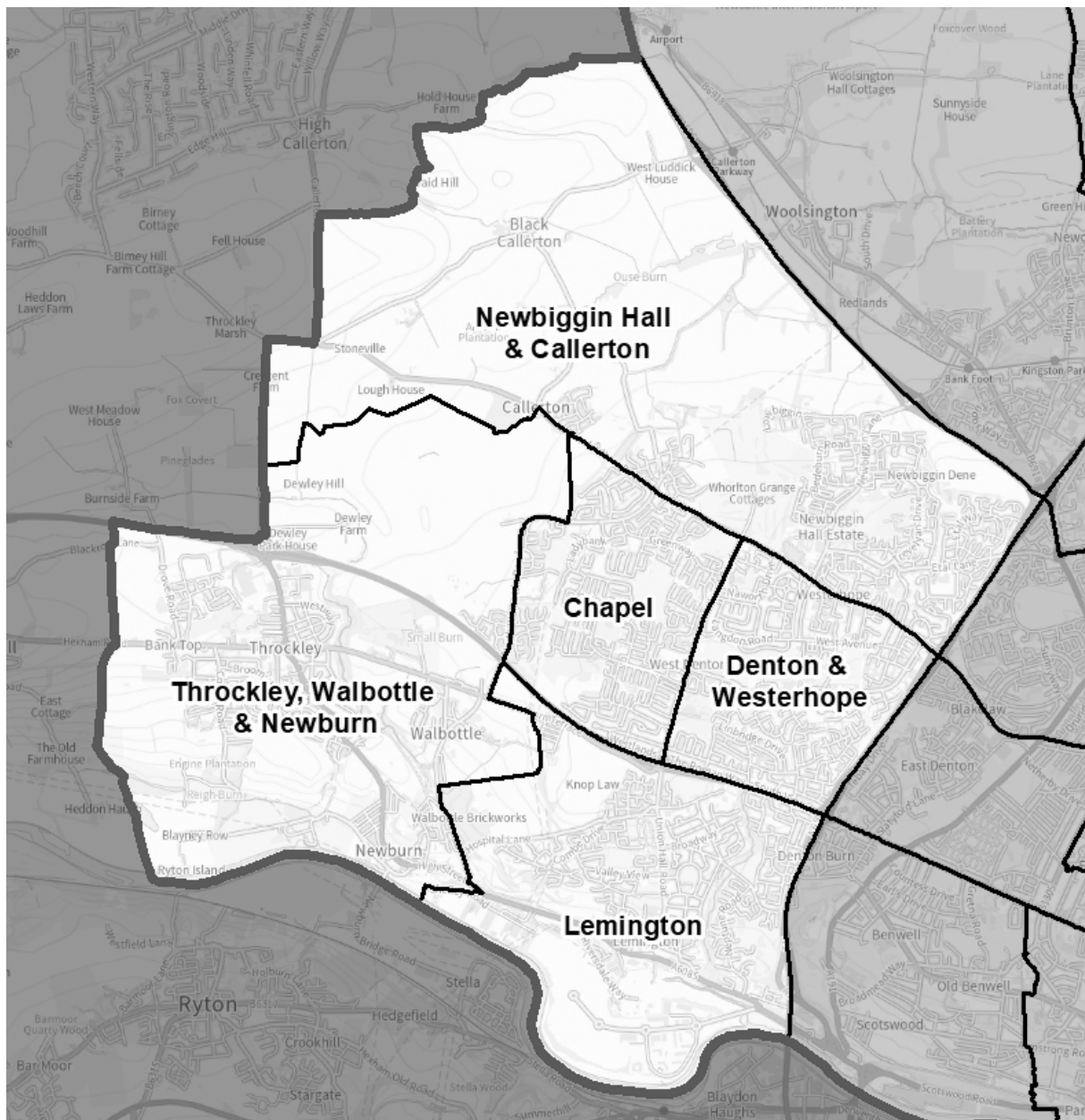
43 A resident was of the view that the name Castle did not make sense, nor did it represent the area. They suggested renaming it North ward. However, we did not receive any other submissions that advocated this significant change to the name of the ward. In light of Hazlerigg Parish Council's support, we are retaining the existing name of the ward.

44 One resident supported the draft recommendations' Kingston Park & Dinnington ward because it re-united the Kingston Park community. In the resident's view this would facilitate effective and convenient local government.

45 Considering this support, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

46 One local resident suggested that Dinnington Village be moved into Northumberland County Council area. However, changing the external boundaries of an authority, including moving areas from one to another, is outside the scope of an electoral review. This would necessitate a Principal Area Boundary Review.

Southwest and West



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Chapel	3	-1%
Denton & Westerhope	3	6%
Lemington	3	1%
Newbiggin Hall & Callerton	3	7%
Throckley, Walbottle & Newburn	3	0%

Chapel, Lemington and Throckley, Walbottle & Newburn

47 We received submissions from Councillor Donnelly and some residents about this area of the city.

48 Councillor Donnelly suggested that an area of land alongside Fell House Farm be retained in Chapel ward because since 2017, the North Walbottle Waggonway Group had planted trees and protected the greenbelt area. He stated that the draft recommendations cut off a piece of land that the group had worked on.

49 One of the residents expressed support for the draft recommendations, specifically the proposed changes to the western boundary of Chapel ward and the new boundary along North Walbottle Road.

50 Another resident also supported our splitting of the existing Callerton & Throckley ward. They suggested that we make an additional change by including the Blucher area in our Throckley & Walbottle ward instead of Lemington ward to its east. They were of the view that Blucher was closer to Walbottle and that the resultant boundary would be more logical.

51 We considered doing this and noted that the electoral equality was good. However, we also noted that we did not hear from residents of the Blucher area and were unable to determine if this change would reflect their community identity or not. We therefore decided to retain the well-established existing boundary in this area.

52 We also carefully considered Councillor Donnelly's proposal. We note that adopting this will mean the use of a weaker boundary in the area. We consider that the change in ward does not stop the North Walbottle Waggonway Group from continuing their work in that area. For these reasons, we have not been persuaded to make any changes to the draft recommendations.

53 Accordingly, we are confirming the boundaries of our draft recommendation wards as final.

54 The residents who wrote in about our draft recommendations for Throckley & Walbottle ward all advocated for Newburn to be included in the name of the ward on community identity grounds. They stated that Newburn was the heart or urban centre of the entire area, and we have been persuaded that Newburn is a significant area within the ward and that including it in the ward name will reflect the communities in the area. In view of this we are content to rename the ward, Throckley, Walbottle & Newburn.

55 One resident advocated for Lemington to be included in Northumberland County Council area. However, this electoral review is about the boundaries of the wards within Newcastle City Council. Changes to the external boundaries of the local authority are outside the scope of this review and would necessitate a Principal Area Boundary Review.

Denton & Westerhope and Newbiggin Hall & Callerton

56 We received submissions about the wards in this area of the city from Councillor Adam Mitchell, Councillor Tracey Mitchell and some residents.

57 Councillors Adam Mitchell and Tracey Mitchell, and a resident, objected to the use of Stamfordham Road as a boundary, stating that this split Westerhope Village across two wards. They were of the view that the village would lose its identity and that the existing boundary was more reflective of the community that Stamfordham Road.

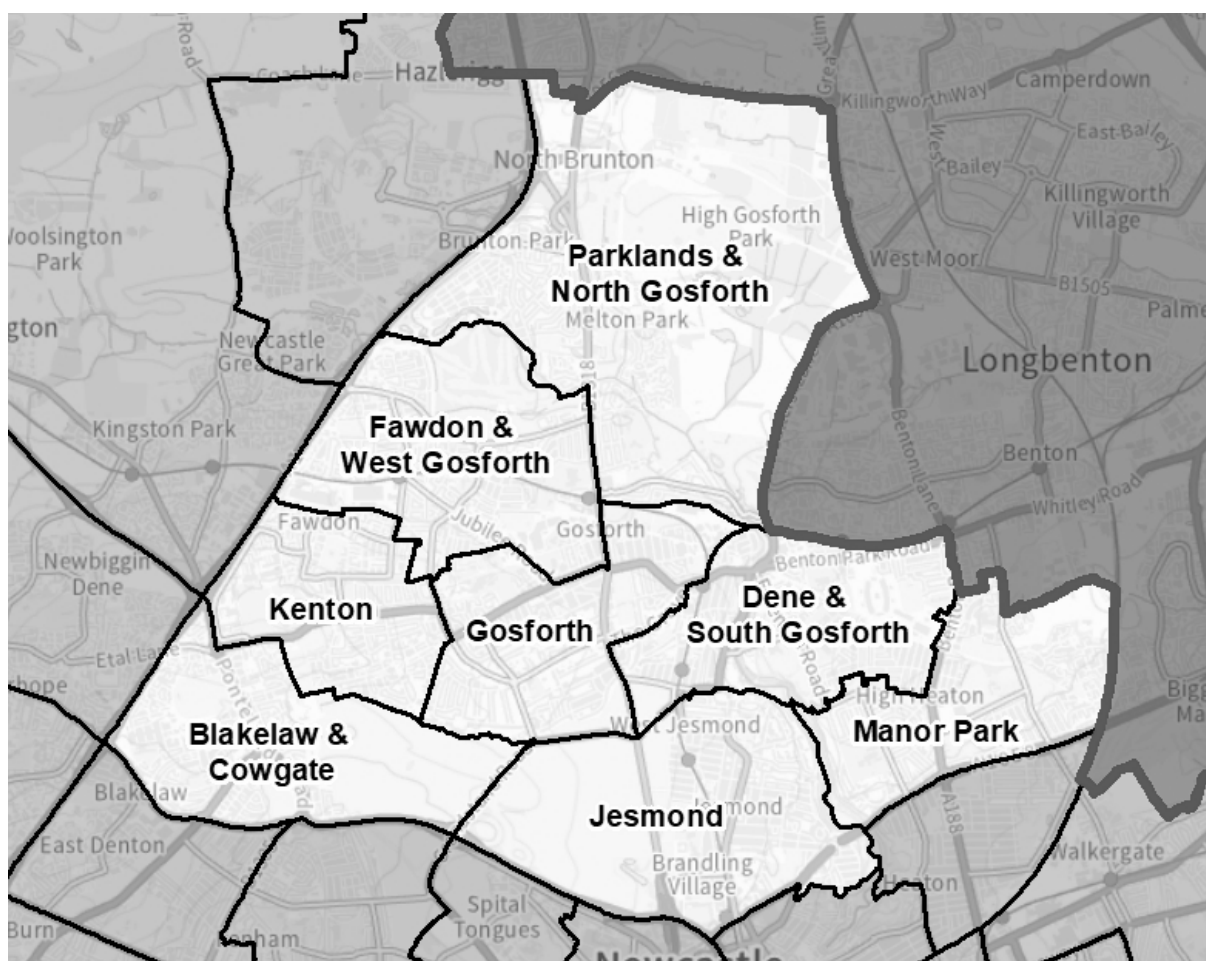
58 We considered the issues raised very carefully. We note that retaining the existing boundary in the north of Denton & Westerhope produces a ward forecast to have 16% more electors than the average for Newcastle City Council by 2030. We considered this too high. Consequently, we have used Stamfordham Road as the boundary. We consider that using this strong boundary and having good electoral equality is the best balance of our statutory criteria and have not been persuaded to make changes to our draft recommendations. While we recognise that this will mean two sets of councillors representing Westerhope, this should not mean that the community will be disadvantaged in any way.

59 A resident expressed the view that South Denton was in Lemington ward and Denton Burn was in Fenham, and therefore suggested that Denton & Westerhope ward should be renamed West Denton & Westerhope to avoid any confusion. We note that the draft recommendations ward includes the same area of Denton as in the existing ward. There has been no suggestion that there has been any confusion about the boundaries of or communities within the ward. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to rename this ward.

60 Another resident suggested that we rename Newbiggin Hall & Callerton ward. They were of the view that Newbiggin Hall was just one estate and not the name of the area. They were not sure what name to propose but suggested something along the lines of Callerton or City West. We note that in response to our consultation on warding patterns both Newcastle Labour and Newcastle Liberal Democrats proposed wards with Newbiggin Hall in their names. We also note that the resident was unsure what name should replace Newbiggin Hall & Callerton. We have therefore not been persuaded to rename this ward.

61 However, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

Northeast and Central



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Blakelaw & Cowgate	3	-7%
Dene & South Gosforth	3	4%
Fawdon & West Gosforth	3	9%
Gosforth	3	9%
Jesmond	3	3%
Kenton	3	-1%
Manor Park	3	-5%
Parklands & North Gosforth	3	-2%

Blakelaw & Cowgate

62 We received one submission from a resident about the name of this ward.

63 In our draft recommendations report, we asked if including Cowgate in the name of the ward would reflect communities in this ward. The resident stated that Blakelaw and Cowgate are two distinct communities within the existing Blakelaw ward, and that renaming the ward would be supported by both communities.

64 After careful consideration, we are content to rename this ward Blakelaw & Cowgate. We note that Cowgate was mentioned in Newcastle Labour's submission at the warding pattern stage as one of the main communities in this ward.

65 We did not receive any submissions about the boundaries of this ward. Therefore, aside from renaming it, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Dene & South Gosforth, Fawdon & West Gosforth, Gosforth and Manor Park

66 We received submissions about this area, from Councillor Taylor, High West Jesmond Residents' Association and some residents.

67 Our draft recommendations were based on the existing wards in the area, with some modifications.

68 Councillor Taylor expressed support for the draft recommendations' Dene & South Gosforth ward but stated that two existing polling districts in the area should be merged following our review. Modifying polling districts is a matter for Newcastle City Council who will have to conduct a polling district review following the completion of this electoral review.

69 High West Jesmond Residents' Association also supported the draft recommendations' Dene & South Gosforth ward. It noted that although the ward included a number of different residential areas, High West Jesmond had strong connections and shared issues with some of the other communities in the ward, and that it had not had any difficulty contacting the current councillors. It also noted the difficulties we had in separating the communities on either side of Haddricks Mill Road as detailed in the draft recommendations report. Consequently, it was content to support the draft recommendations.

70 Three residents expressed support for our draft recommendations. One supported the change we made between Fawdon & West Gosforth and Parklands wards which moved the Newcastle City Golf Club and recreation area into Fawdon & West Gosforth ward. They explained that residents had been asking for this to happen for a long time. Another one supported our moving the area south of St Nicholas Park into Gosforth ward on community identity grounds, stating that residents of this area looked south for their amenities and community. Another resident also expressed support for the modifications we made to Gosforth ward.

71 A resident objected to the draft recommendations and proposed a boundary along Matthew Bank/Haddricks Mill Road. However, this would produce a Dene ward forecast to have 42% fewer electors than the average for Newcastle City Council by 2030. At the same time, the resulting Gosforth ward would have 55% more electors

than the average for the local authority area. We considered these variances too high and did not adopt this proposal.

72 As explained in the draft recommendations report, we considered various ways to separate the communities in this area into separate wards, including departing from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. The options are detailed in paragraphs 84– 88 of our draft recommendations report⁶ none of which produced wards with good electoral equality. Consequently, we based our draft recommendations on the existing ward with modifications in line with the submissions we received. We also identified an alternative boundary of our own in one instance.

73 Another resident proposed a number of changes to achieve ‘a better level of electoral equality’ in the area. They advocated moving ‘enough of’ the High West Jesmond area into Jesmond ward and ‘reshuffling territory in the other Gosforth wards’ to create cleaner boundaries and improve electoral equality. The resident suggested moving Regent Road, Elsdon Road, Hedley Street and Hedley Terrace from Fawdon & West Gosforth into Gosforth ward and adjusting the boundary between Dene & South Gosforth and Manor Park wards. They suggested moving the area east of the High Street from Gosforth to Dene & South Gosforth ward and making modifications around Swaledale Gardens.

74 We gave careful consideration to the resident’s proposal. We note that the resident did not provide any specific boundaries for the area of High West Jesmond they proposed that we move to Jesmond in the south. If we moved a part of the area, we would be splitting that community across two wards and this would necessitate the use of a less identifiable boundary than the existing and draft recommendations boundary along Jesmond Dene Road.

75 Furthermore, it produced a Gosforth ward with 20% more electors than the average for the local authority area. Modifying Gosforth to achieve good electoral equality would require wholesale changes for which we have not received any detailed community identity evidence. Moving the area east of the High Street into Dene & South Gosforth produced a Gosforth ward forecast to have 12% fewer electors and, more significantly, a Dene & South Gosforth ward forecast to have 36% more electors than the average for Newcastle City Council by 2030.

76 We consider that making these changes work would necessitate wholesale changes in at least four wards for which we did not have sufficient community identity evidence. All the draft recommendation wards have what we consider good electoral equality. In light of this and the support we received from some respondents, we were not persuaded to make these changes.

⁶ www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/newcastle_upon_tyne_draft_recommendations_report.pdf

77 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Dene & South Gosforth, Fawdon & West Gosforth, Gosforth and Manor Park wards as final.

Jesmond

78 We received 60 submissions about our draft recommendations for Jesmond. These were from Councillor Storey, the Armstrong Studio Trust, Jesmond Residents' Association and residents.

79 Our draft recommendations created a single Jesmond ward in place of the existing North Jesmond and South Jesmond wards. We moved the area of the existing South Jesmond ward, south of the A1058, into Ouseburn ward to the south.

80 Although Jesmond Residents' Association welcomed the inclusion of Town Moor in this ward, along with all but one of the respondents, it objected to the draft recommendations on community identity grounds, specifically to a part of the existing South Jesmond ward known as Jesmond Vale, being excluded from Jesmond ward.

81 Respondents told us that Jesmond and Jesmond Vale were an integrated community; that all the easily accessible services used by residents of Jesmond Vale were a short distance away in the wider Jesmond area north of the A1058; and that the issues and interests facing Jesmond and Jesmond Vale residents were different from those facing residents of Ouseburn, Sandyford and Shieldfield. They expressed concern that the draft recommendations would isolate them from the shops, doctors' surgeries and recreational amenities that they used.

82 A lot of residents stated that the A1058 was specifically built in a tunnel in the Jesmond area to minimise any disruption to the community and maintain the connection between Jesmond and Jesmond Vale. They pointed to the Council's literature which described The Minories on Rosebery Crescent, south of the A1058, as being located in Jesmond, as evidence that this area is considered part of the Jesmond community.

83 After careful consideration of these submissions, we have been persuaded that the Jesmond community extends south of the A1058 to include an area currently in South Jesmond ward. While not all of the existing South Jesmond ward identifies as living in Jesmond, there is a part of it that does. In particular, this is the area between Lansdowne Gardens and Rosebery Place, as specified within a number of the submissions which included a list of the roads that were considered as being part of Jesmond.

84 We note that because of the tunnel in that area, the A1058 is not a barrier to the flow of community, and Churchill Gardens and Rosebery Crescent above the A1058 is the vehicular access to Jesmond Vale.

85 Consequently, as part of our final recommendations, we have modified the boundary between Jesmond and the ward to the south so that the area bounded by Churchill Gardens, Lansdowne Gardens, Newcastle High School for Girls and Nazareth Mews is included in Jesmond ward.

86 Jesmond ward is forecast to have 3% more electors than the average for Newcastle City Council, by 2030.

Kenton

87 We did not receive any submissions about our draft recommendations for Kenton ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Parklands & North Gosforth

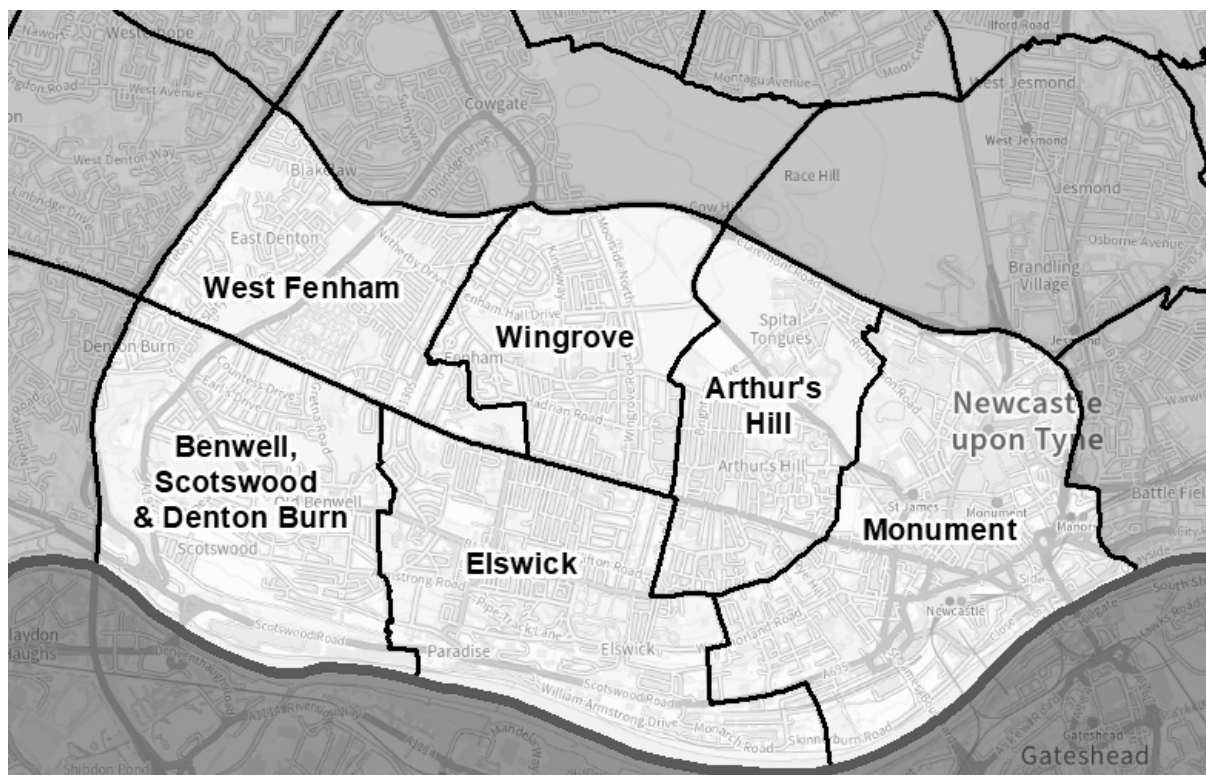
88 We received a joint submission from Councillor Allen, Councillor Ashby and Councillor Morrissey about our draft recommendations' Parklands ward.

89 These councillors who represent the existing Parklands ward supported the boundaries of the draft recommendations, but advocated that the ward be renamed North Gosforth. They are of the view that the current name does not reflect most of the communities there, with North Gosforth parish taking up half of the ward and North Gosforth Park being an estate within the ward. They also state that although Parklands reflects some of the estates in the ward, Gosforth is the greater community within the ward.

90 We have considered their representation. While we note that Parklands does represent some estates in the ward, we have been persuaded that a significant part of the area identify as North Gosforth. Consequently, we are content to reflect North Gosforth in the name of the ward, in a similar way to other wards in the area. We have renamed it Parklands & North Gosforth.

91 Aside from the change of name, we make no other changes to our draft recommendations for this ward, and confirm them as final.

Southcentral



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Arthur's Hill	3	-1%
Benwell, Scotswood & Denton Burn	3	-7%
Elswick	3	-4%
Monument	3	3%
West Fenham	3	-9%
Wingrove	3	-7%

Arthur's Hill and Monument

92 We did not receive any submissions about the boundaries of our draft recommendations for these wards.

93 We received a submission from a resident who suggested that we rename Monument ward, Central. They were of the view that Central was a more logical and representative name for this ward.

94 However, we note that this is a significant change proposed by one respondent. We have no way of knowing if the proposed name would be accepted by most residents in the ward. Therefore, we have not made this change. Nevertheless, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and

sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

95 We do not make any changes to these wards and confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Benwell, Scotswood & Denton Burn and Elswick

96 We received one submission in response to our draft recommendations for these wards.

97 A resident suggested that we move the boundary between these two wards from Pease Avenue to Fox and Hounds Lane to avoid splitting an estate.

98 On careful consideration, we note that the residents to the west of Fox and Hounds Lane do not look across on to that road but are actually in Westacres Crescent. We also note that the field on the west side of Fox and Hounds Lane makes a better boundary than Pease Avenue and have been persuaded to make this change as part of our final recommendations.

99 The resident also advocated for Denton Burn to be included in the name of the ward. We note that Denton Burn is a distinct area within the ward and are content to rename the ward accordingly.

100 Benwell, Scotswood & Denton Burn and Elswick wards are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

West Fenham and Wingrove

101 We received submissions about this area from Councillor Mark Mitchell, Fenham Association of Residents (FAR) and some residents.

102 Our draft recommendations modified the existing West Fenham ward by moving a few roads between the western end of Cedar Road, Lonnen Avenue, Two Ball Lonnen and Fenham Hall Drive into Wingrove ward on electoral equality grounds. We also renamed it Fenham ward in line with a submission we received which pointed out that there was no East, North or South Fenham ward.

103 FAR requested that we put Acanthus Avenue back into Fenham ward. Councillor Mitchell suggested that we change the ward name to include Slatyford. One resident who had no issues with the boundaries also felt that the ward needed to be renamed because in their view most of Fenham was in Wingrove ward. Another resident proposed changing the name of the existing ward from West Fenham to Fenham West, although they did not give any reason for this.

104 Another resident expressed support for the draft recommendations for Wingrove ward. They stated that their community was focused around Fenham Hall Drive and did not extend to the north across the moor where there were poor crossing links and connections.

105 We carefully considered the comments about Fenham ward. We noted that FAR's community centre is located on Acanthus Avenue. This road is currently in Wingrove ward and not Fenham as FAR seems to think. Our draft recommendations do not alter the existing boundary, west of Acanthus Avenue.

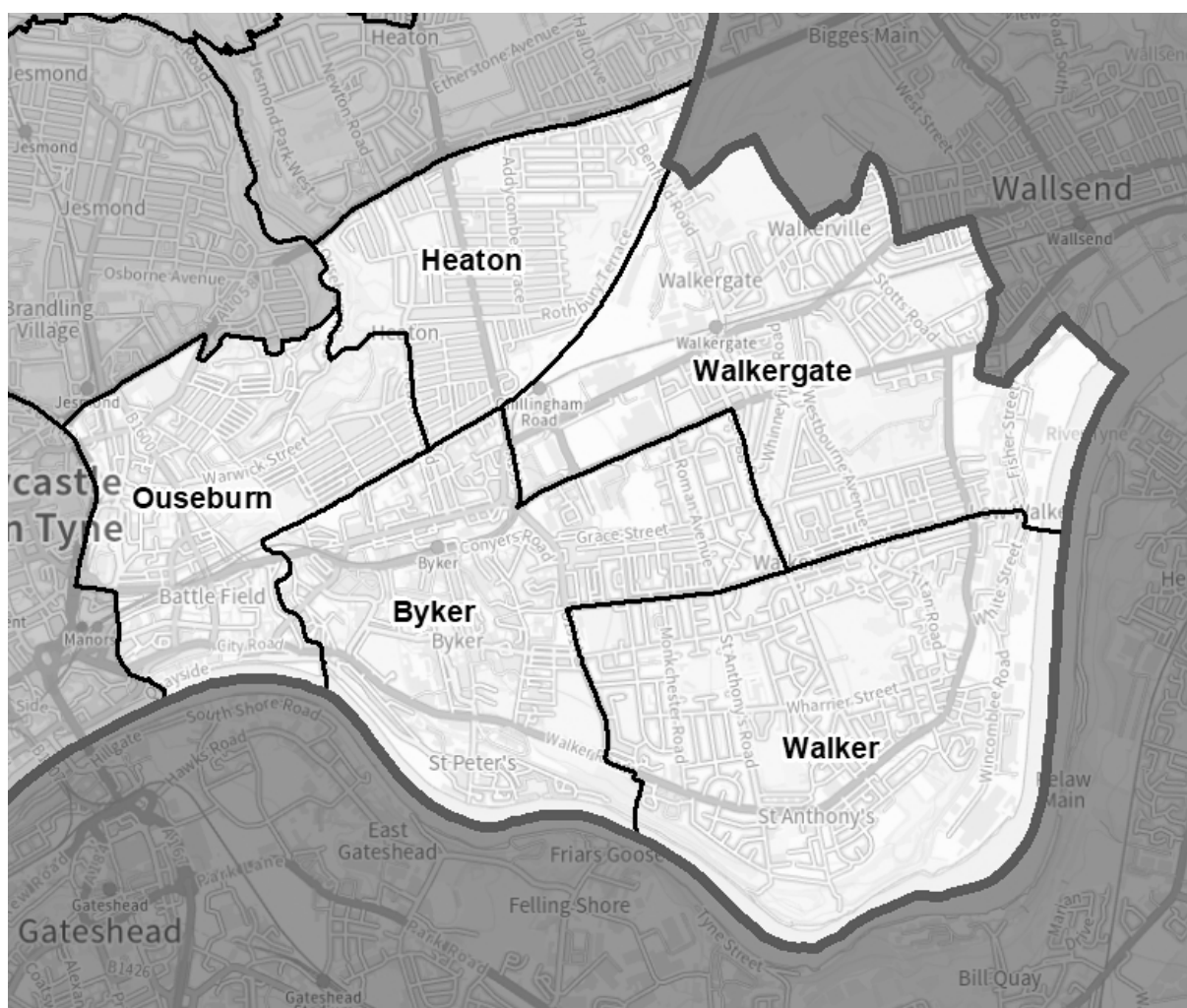
106 Nevertheless, we considered moving the boundary to the east of Acanthus Avenue to accommodate FAR's request. However, this would require drawing a boundary that runs east of Sorrell Close, then west of Almond Place and east of Magnolia Close. We considered this boundary to be weak and not easy to identify, and were not persuaded to adopt it.

107 Furthermore, we considered that FAR's current location in Wingrove ward suggests that the community it serves possibly flows across both wards, as alluded to by the resident who indicated that part of Fenham is in Wingrove.

108 With regards to renaming the ward, we have considered the submissions we received and have not been able to determine if including Slatyford in the name will reflect community identities in the area. We also note that the Fenham community appears to extend to an area to the east, outside this ward. After careful consideration, as part of our final recommendations, we are reverting the name back to West Fenham.

109 As mentioned in the section on Arthur's Hill and Monument, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, the Council does not need to seek permission to do so.

Southeast



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Byker	3	1%
Heaton	3	1%
Ouseburn	3	-5%
Walker	3	2%
Walkergate	3	0%

Byker, Heaton, Walker and Walkergate

110 We did not receive any submissions about these wards in response to our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming them as final.

Ouseburn

111 We received five submissions on our draft recommendations for this area, in addition to the ones which were about the boundaries between this ward and Jesmond ward.

112 Our draft recommendations were for an Ouseburn & Shieldfield ward with the A1058 as its northern boundary. As discussed in the section on Jesmond, we have modified that boundary to exclude Jesmond Vale i.e., the area north of Newcastle High School for Girls, from this ward.

113 One resident objected to our 'splitting the Ouseburn' down the middle arguing that it was a cohesive area better served by one set of councillors.

114 Councillor Kane and a resident supported our draft recommendations for Ouseburn & Shieldfield. However, Councillor Kane along with another resident objected to the name of the ward. One of the residents proposed that we revert the name back to the current name, Ouseburn, in view of the fact that there were other communities in the ward besides Shieldfield. This was also one of Councillor Kane's proposals.

115 The other resident was of the view that since most of Shieldfield was already in the existing ward, it should be named Ouseburn & Sandyford to reflect the new community joining the ward.

116 On careful consideration of these submissions, we note that our boundary along a section of the Ouseburn is part of the existing boundary and we consider it strong and identifiable.

117 We also note that there does not appear to be a consensus about what the ward should be called, notwithstanding the representation we received from a few Shieldfield local organisations and a resident during our consultation on warding patterns. In view of the lack of consensus and lack of clarity about what this area should be called, we are changing the name back to Ouseburn, as part of our final recommendations.

118 Newcastle City Council can seek our agreement to change the ward name in the five years following a review, if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

119 Ouseburn ward is forecast to have 5% fewer electors than the average for Newcastle City Council area by 2030.

120 Jesmond Residents' Association expressed concern that our draft recommendations' Ouseburn & Shieldfield ward was split across parliamentary constituency boundaries. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, we do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries when drawing up ward boundaries. These new ward boundaries will form the basis of the next review of parliamentary boundaries.

Conclusions

121 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Newcastle, referencing the 2023 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2030
Number of councillors	78	78
Number of electoral wards	26	26
Average number of electors per councillor	2,386	2,575
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Newcastle City Council should be made up of 78 councillors serving 26 wards representing 26 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 Newcastle City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Newcastle City Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

122 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.

123 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, Newcastle 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.

124 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 Woolsington parish.

125 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Woolsington parish.

Final recommendations

Woolsington Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bedeburn	3
Callerton	2
Newbiggin Hall	4
Woolsington & Bank Foot	3

What happens next?

126 We have now completed our review of Newcastle 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

127 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Newcastle City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Arthur's Hill	3	7,472	2,491	4%	7,630	2,543	-1%
2	Benwell, Scotswood & Denton Burn	3	6,131	2,044	-14%	7,202	2,401	-7%
3	Blakelaw & Cowgate	3	6,879	2,293	-4%	7,178	2,393	-7%
4	Byker	3	7,174	2,391	0%	7,789	2,596	1%
5	Castle	3	6,183	2,061	-14%	7,575	2,525	-2%
6	Chapel	3	7,317	2,439	2%	7,671	2,557	-1%
7	Dene & South Gosforth	3	7,684	2,561	7%	8,044	2,681	4%
8	Denton & Westerhope	3	7,813	2,604	9%	8,217	2,739	6%
9	Elswick	3	7,116	2,372	-1%	7,402	2,467	-4%
10	Fawdon & West Gosforth	3	8,131	2,710	14%	8,410	2,803	9%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Gosforth	3	8,063	2,688	13%	8,417	2,806	9%
12 Heaton	3	7,210	2,403	1%	7,774	2,591	1%
13 Jesmond	3	7,732	2,577	8%	7,983	2,661	3%
14 Kenton	3	7,329	2,443	2%	7,664	2,555	-1%
15 Kingston Park & Dinnington	3	7,285	2,428	2%	7,985	2,662	3%
16 Lemington	3	7,078	2,359	-1%	7,796	2,599	1%
17 Manor Park	3	7,117	2,372	-1%	7,377	2,459	-5%
18 Monument	3	6,002	2,001	-16%	7,974	2,658	3%
19 Newbiggin Hall & Callerton	3	7,276	2,425	2%	8,287	2,762	7%
20 Ouseburn	3	6,874	2,291	-4%	7,325	2,442	-5%
21 Parklands & North Gosforth	3	7,263	2,421	1%	7,600	2,533	-2%
22 Throckley, Walbottle & Newburn	3	6,458	2,153	-10%	7,752	2,584	0%
23 Walker	3	7,507	2,502	5%	7,852	2,617	2%

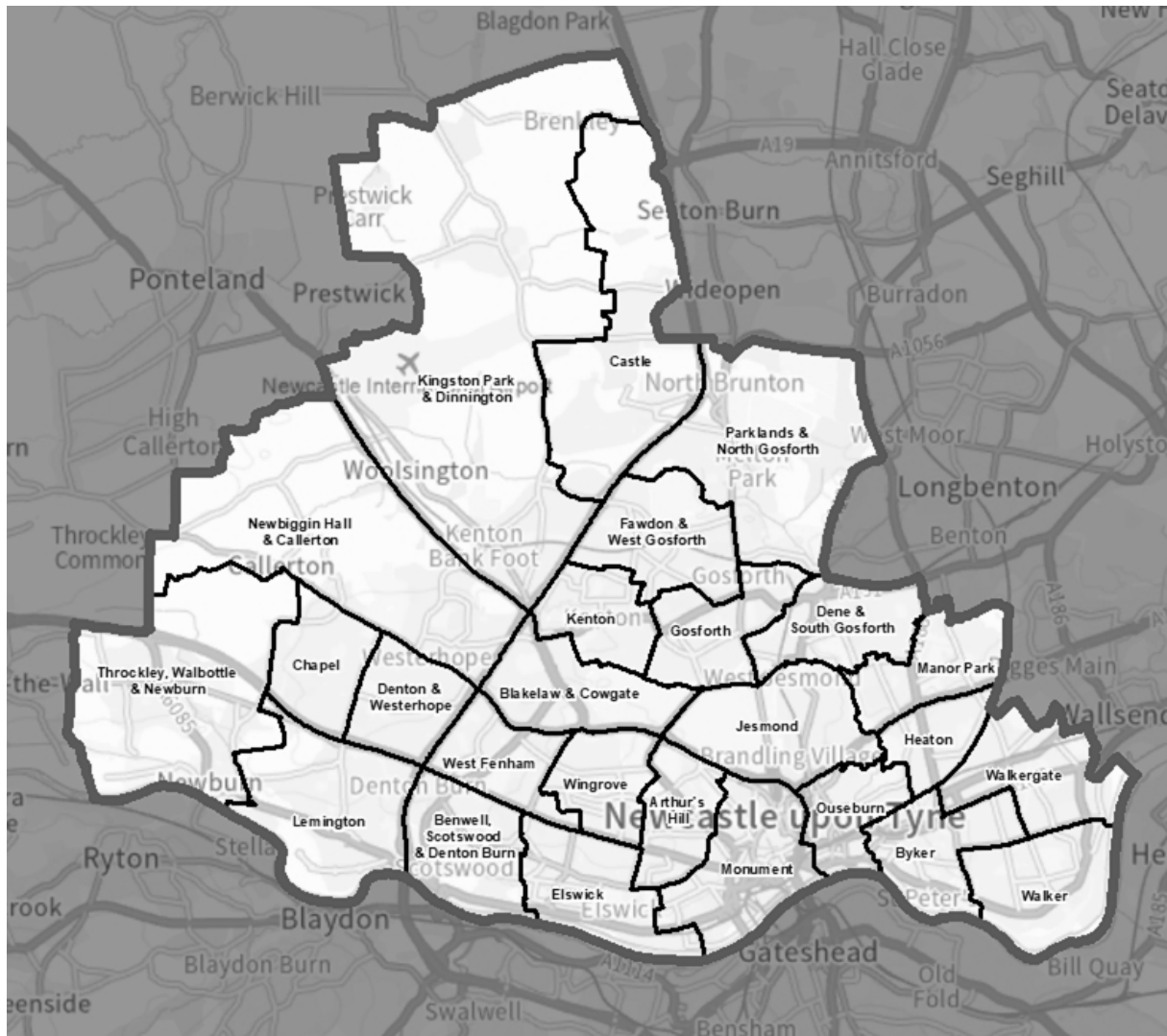
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Walkergate	3	7,303	2,434	2%	7,730	2,577	0%
25 West Fenham	3	6,767	2,256	-5%	7,050	2,350	-9%
26 Wingrove	3	6,916	2,305	-3%	7,170	2,390	-7%
Totals	78	186,080	–	–	200,854	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,386	–	–	2,575	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Newcastle 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



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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/newcastle-upon-tyne

Councillors

- Councillor P. Allen, Councillor R. Ashby & Councillor C. Morrissey (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor M. Donnelly (Newcastle City Council) x 2
- Councillor G. Kane (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor A. Mitchell (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor M. Mitchell (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor T. Mitchell (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor L. Storey (Newcastle City Council)
- Councillor W. Taylor (Newcastle City Council)

Local organisations

- Armstrong Studio Trust
- Fenham Association of Residents
- High West Jesmond Residents' Association
- Jesmond Residents' Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Hazlerigg Parish Council

Local residents

- 86 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

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

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

X: @LGBCE