



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 24 January 2024** at **10.00 am** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023 (Pages 3 - 16)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chair's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from the Public
6. Petitions
7. Report from the Cabinet (Pages 17 - 18)
8. Updated Local Code of Corporate Governance - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 19 - 58)
9. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 59 - 128)
10. Overview and Scrutiny - Six Monthly Update - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 129 - 142)

11. Motions on Notice

Councillor A Batey to Move

Due to the concerns raised by business and local residents, this Council calls on the Cabinet to reconsider the decision to end Free Parking After 2pm.

Councillor K Shaw to Move

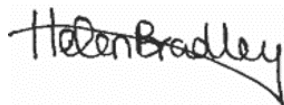
This Council has incurred costs of £1.2m forming Levelling Up Funding bids which it submitted to Government.

This Council calls on Cabinet to consider seeking a judicial review of the process of how bids were determined by Government in rounds 2 and 3.

12. Questions from Members

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 16th day of January 2024



Helen Bradley
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At an **Ordinary Meeting** of the County Council held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 6 December 2023** at **10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor J Nicholson in the Chair

Councillors E Adam, R Adcock-Forster, V Andrews, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, A Batey, A Bell, R Bell, C Bihari, G Binney, J Blakey, D Brown, J Charlton, I Cochrane, J Cosslett, B Coult, R Crute, M Currah, S Deinali, T Duffy, K Earley, J Elmer, L Fenwick, C Fletcher, D Freeman, J Griffiths, O Gunn, D Hall, C Hampson, A Hanson, P Heaviside, T Henderson, S Henig, J Higgins, L A Holmes, C Hood, A Hopgood, L Hovvells, C Hunt, G Hutchinson, M Johnson, N Jones, P Jopling, B Kellett, C Lines, L Maddison, C Marshall, C Martin, E Mavin, L Mavin, B McAloon, S McDonnell, M McGaun (Vice-Chair), D McKenna, M McKeon, I McLean, J Miller, P Molloy, D Mulholland, D Oliver, R Ormerod, E Peeke, R Potts, P Pringle, J Purvis, J Quinn, S Quinn, G Richardson, K Robson, K Rooney, J Rowlandson, A Savory, E Scott, J Scurfield, K Shaw, A Shield, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, G Smith, T Smith, M Stead, A Sterling, T Stubbs, A Surtees, D Sutton-Lloyd, P Taylor, F Tinsley, S Townsend, C Varty, E Waldock, M Walton, A Watson, J Watson, M Wilkes, M Wilson, S Wilson, D Wood and R Yorke

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Abley, C Bell, D Boyes, L Brown, J Cairns, J Chaplow, R Charlton-Lainé, K Hawley, D Howarth, J Howey, C Kay, S McMahon, D Nicholls, A Reed, S Robinson, A Simpson and S Zair

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair announced with great sadness the deaths of former Derwentside District and Alderman Councillor Jack Pallas and former Durham City Councillor and Alderman John George Cowper.

Jack was elected to represent the Havannah Ward on Derwentside District Council in May 1991 and served until 2003. Jack was made an Alderman in 2009.

John served on Durham City Council from 1991 until 2009 and was a former Mayor of Durham City in 2001. John was made an Alderman in 2009.

Members stood for a moments silence out of respect to Jack and John.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Quinn declared a pecuniary interest in Item No 11 and would leave the meeting during the consideration of this item.

3 Chair's Announcements

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Councillor June Watson, the recently elected Member for the Dawdon Division.

The Chair informed Council that since the last meeting she had attended various events, including a visit by a Japanese delegation to Durham Town Hall in October and in November the launch of the Future Business Magnates scheme. The Chair had also been in attendance at Remembrance Services at County Hall, Haswell, Durham Cathedral and Stanley and the Spanish Apprenticeship Awards at the Spanish Gallery, Bishop Auckland.

The Chair was also pleased to announce that footpath improvements between Old Pit Lane in Newton Hall and Rivergreen at Aykley Heads had been completed.

An 'Excellent' grading had been received for the DurhamEnable service who had been commended in all areas of their work following an audit carried out by the British Association for Supported Employment after receiving a total score of 92 per cent. The DurhamEnable service provided a specialist service for people with disabilities and mental health needs, aged 18 and over find work.

DurhamEnable's job coaches worked with people who faced significant barriers to entering work because of the long-term impact of a disability or deteriorating mental health, helping them to find and stay in work.

Finally the Chair invited all Members join her for a Christmas Celebration on 7 December to be held in the Durham Room at 1.00 p.m.

4 Leader's Report

Councillor A Hopgood, Leader of the Council also congratulated and gave a warm welcome to Councillor June Watson.

Last month had seen the return of Lumiere to County Durham. It was great to see so many people coming into Durham City and Bishop Auckland with around 160,000 people attending over four cold November nights. Their photographs, videos and stories will have reached many hundreds of thousands more.

Looking ahead to the Christmas season there was lots going on across County Durham. There were markets, carols, pantomimes, and visits from Santa, which the Leader was sure many Members would be visiting. Additionally, as mentioned, the Chair's Christmas celebration would be taking place on 7 December.

This was the last County Council meeting before Christmas and the Leader wished all Members a happy and restful festive period and all the best for the new year.

5 Questions from the Public

The Chair informed Council that three public questions had been received for the meeting, from Kay Fotheringham, Bill McArdle and Nigel Watson. Kay Fotheringham and Bill McArdle were in attendance to put their questions and Nigel Watson was unable to attend the meeting but had requested the Chair put his question.

Kay Fotheringham then put the following question:

When did the public consultation about the proposal to build the Tees Valley Energy Recovery facility take place and what was the public response?

Councillor Mark Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Ms Fotheringham for her question and provided the following response.

Durham County Council has an established Waste Management Strategy that sets out our ambitions to increase the reuse and recycling of materials and reduce the amount of waste for disposal from households in the county. The implementation of this strategy has seen us become the authority with the highest levels of recycling in the North-East despite the recent challenges of the pandemic and the associated change in public behaviours. Furthermore, the Council's waste strategy embeds the principle that we will aim to recover as much value as possible from the waste left over after recycling by avoiding the use of landfill and instead, use the waste that we collect to create energy to help power the national grid and a left-over ash that then can go for further recycling. Landfill is not a solution for County Durham as even the best managed landfills create methane emissions that are a potent greenhouse gas and incredibly harmful.

This strategy for waste management - encapsulated in the phrase 'reduce reuse recycle' – and including the use of energy from waste as a treatment solution was subject to full public consultation when it was developed and we continue to deliver against those principles on a daily basis, emptying a million bins a month for the people of county Durham.

To date our residual treatment solution has been delivered through a commercial contract utilising energy from waste technology at Haverton Hill on Teesside, while this is the best solution currently available it will need to be replaced. The construction of the Tees Valley Energy Recovery project represents a continuation of the County Durham waste strategy but by developing publicly owned state of the art infrastructure, which will be cleaner, greener and better value for money than current arrangements and will secure a reliable waste management solution for the county for decades to come.

The Gunning principles are the founding legal principles for consultation in England and these state that consultation should be undertaken when proposals are at a formative stage. The council adhered to this principle by fully consulting when energy from waste became the strategic solution to the county's residual waste treatment. The new facility continues to deliver on this strategy by providing the best practical environmental option for the future. This council will not return to using landfill as a primary treatment option, nor will it stand still when better environmental options can be delivered, especially when these are better financial options as well.

The facility itself is also subject to rigorous planning controls, which are both extensive and transparent, allowing for both public commentary and consultation and statutory consultation with relevant public agencies, including the Environment Agency. The outcome of the planning process to date has been that Outline Planning Permission was granted in July 2020. Reserved Matters applications, which again were subject to both statutory and public consultation, were considered and subsequently granted planning permission in July 2023.

As the plant is further developed there will be a permitting process through the Environment Agency, again subject to public and statutory consultation, which will set out the detailed conditions under which the facility will run to ensure environmental compliance.

The council continues to be open and transparent in its policies and operations, we have delivered extensive public engagement in all areas of our environmental and climate change policies, and we will continue to make information available online and in the public domain.

Bill McArdle then put the following question:

Contract terms for the Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility (TVERF) include a duration of 25 years for the main contract. There is also provision for an 11 year extension. If the planned start date is 01.04.26, the main contract will expire in 2050. The extended contract would expire in or about 2060. There is great uncertainty about future recycling rates, residual waste flows, grid connections, possible CCS arrangements and other factors.

Why is Durham County Council prepared to sign off these contracts for such long terms?

Councillor Mark Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Mr McArdle for his question and provided the following response:

Durham County Council, along with the six other partner authorities involved in the TV ERF project, have a statutory duty to manage waste material safely and in accordance with the law, ensuring that all residents can enjoy a clean and sanitary environment. The development of the TV ERF will allow the Councils to continue to discharge these duties in the long term – whilst maximising carbon emission reductions, maximising recycling, providing control and long-term security as well as a solution that is affordable and provides value for money.

The TV ERF is a critical and essential infrastructure development and will serve more than 1.5 million people living across County Durham, Tees Valley and Newcastle. It will provide a local, secure, reliable and affordable treatment solution for residual waste (the rubbish left over after recycling has taken place) produced in the region, helping move towards the goal of sending zero waste to landfill, whilst ensuring that an essential sanitisation service is maintained.

The project partners are currently in the process of jointly procuring a contractor to Design, Build, Finance and Operate the Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility (TV ERF). The facility has been designed with sufficient capacity to treat residual household waste from across the region and, in doing so, will generate up to 49.9MW of electricity for export (sufficient to power the equivalent of 60,000 homes). It will be Combined Heat and Power (CHP) enabled, potentially allowing the export of heat to nearby users, and has been designed to be 'Carbon-Capture Ready' to allow the future development of carbon-capture infrastructure which can then be integrated into the TV ERF. As such, the facility will be well placed to deploy these technologies should a viable opportunity arise over the lifetime of the project.

The existing residual waste treatment solutions of the partner authorities are due to expire in 2025/2026. This contract provides an excellent opportunity for the joint procurement of a new, long-term, resilient solution within the full control of the partner authorities that will deliver value for money through economies of scale to each of the partners, including Durham County Council.

Recovering energy from waste only takes place after recycling and is an important component of the waste hierarchy - the policy framework which determines the best environmental solution for dealing with waste - and is therefore complementary to efforts to recycle, re-use and reduce as much as possible.

The partner authorities anticipate that recycling rates will continue to improve in the region as new national and local policies are introduced. However, not everything can be recycled and even under the most ambitious future local recycling scenarios, there will still be a proportion of residual waste that will need to be treated through energy recovery to avoid sending it to landfill. The TV ERF will not impact upon the pursuit of this higher recycling performance – indeed this has been factored in when specifying the capacity of the new facility. For reference, the top ten best recycling local authorities in England all utilise energy recovery for the final treatment of their residual waste.

The contract duration of 29 years reflects the time required to construct the facility followed by a 25-year Services phase. At the end of the contract, the facility will revert to the ownership of the seven partner authorities, including Durham County Council.

The Chair put the following question from Mr Watson:

How will CO2 emissions from the plant be controlled given that TV ERF has failed to secure funding from the government under the sequencing process for carbon capture?

Councillor Mark Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Ms Fotheringham for her question and provided the following response.

Durham County Council along with the other Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility partner authorities has a legal duty to provide public sanitation services in their respective areas and this includes the safe collection, treatment and disposal of both residual and recyclable waste.

The Council does this in accordance with its waste strategy, aiming for the maximum levels of reuse and recycling possible with available equipment

and facilities. The council empties over a million bins a month from the two hundred and thirty thousand households of County Durham.

There will however, always be waste left over after recycling and the only viable and reliable means of treating this waste is through either landfill or energy recovery. Over the past decade, and in accordance with the waste hierarchy and our own waste strategy, Durham County Council has moved away from treating residual waste through landfill. It is the least preferred environmental option as even the most carefully managed landfill sites result in significant pollution. All of the partner authorities therefore have a shared goal of sending zero waste to landfill.

Landfill facilities not only present a long-term environmental risk that must be carefully managed, both during their operation and for several decades after the landfill ceases to accept waste, but also release substantial volumes of methane – a potent Greenhouse Gas. Methane is estimated to be 80 times more harmful to the atmosphere than CO₂.

In a hypothetical scenario whereby the TV ERF is not developed, the net result would be an increase in Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂Equ) emissions derived from the residual waste that is generated each year by the seven partner authorities, either as a result of the residual waste being treated through an older (and less efficient) energy recovery facility (if indeed, sufficient capacity actually existed) or by having to be disposed of via landfill (resulting in the largest increase in Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂Equ) emissions).

Local efforts in the future to improve recycling, re-use and waste prevention, as well as other factors such as population growth, have all been taken into account when setting the specification of the TV ERF over the lifetime of the facility. It has been designed with a capacity to treat approximately 450,000 tonnes of residual waste each year, which represents the volume of waste requiring treatment in the long term after all recycling has taken place, including the separate collection and recycling of food waste, which will be implemented in accordance with government policy over the next few years.

The carbon emissions associated with this vital waste treatment duty are very challenging to avoid completely, but carbon reduction will be supported by strategies to avoid waste, encourage re-use and reach higher recycling rates – particularly for plastics.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy promises major reforms to support local authorities in these goals, and in the county we maintain our efforts to improve the quality and volume of waste going for recycling by providing a robust twin bin solutions supported by education and

enforcement efforts to reduce contamination coming through our recycling bins.

Additionally, there are measures which will be technical solutions deployed within the TV ERF operation to support the reduction of carbon emissions. The Contractor will be required to produce a Carbon and Environmental Management Plan which will demonstrate how they will reduce carbon emissions from the operation year-on-year over the duration of the contract. This will be achieved primarily through increases to the efficiency of the plant; potential future heat-offtake and by consciously removing as much plastic as possible from the waste stream.

The TV ERF has been designed to be Carbon-Capture Ready, which will allow the facility to potentially be connected to the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure as part of the East Coast Cluster.

Unfortunately, following an announcement by DESNZ in March 2023, the TV ERF was not one of the three projects supported in this round.

Success through this process would have enabled the TV ERF to deploy carbon capture and storage technology from the outset – capturing carbon emissions from the plant and storing them in offshore storage as part of the East Coast Cluster. However, it is likely that future funding rounds will occur and, once built, the TV ERF will be well placed to apply again should the opportunity arise as it has been designed to be ‘carbon capture ready’.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is due to publish details regarding the ‘Track 1 Expansion Process’ which will look to fill additional storage capacity in the East Coast Cluster and HyNet Cluster.

Whilst the seven partner authorities remain interested in carbon capture and storage for the TV ERF, having the ability to capture carbon emissions for utilisation or storage is not a condition that the TV ERF, or indeed any other UK energy recovery facility, must meet in order to operate.

The TV ERF is the best environmental and financial option for the Council to dispose of its residual waste and aligns with our carbon reduction aspirations and targets.

A copy of the questions and responses would be sent to the questioners and posted on the Council’s website.

On a point of order Councillor D Wood mentioned that the first question specifically asked for when the consultation period was and what the public responses were. Councillor Wood felt that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change had not answered either element of this question. He requested that this be recorded in the Minutes. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change responded that he had explained consultation had taken place regarding the policy of waste for the Council under the previous administration and the planning applications which had subsequently been passed.

6 Petitions

There were no petitions for consideration.

7 Report from the Cabinet

The Council noted a report from the Cabinet which provided information on issues considered at its meetings held on 11 October, 1 November and 15 November 2023 (for copy see file of Minutes).

8 Mid-Year Review on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2023

The Council noted a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the treasury management mid-year position for 2023/24, a summary of the Council's treasury position, borrowing activity, investment activity, treasury management and prudential indicators as at 30 September 2023 and an overview of activity during the first six months of 2023/24 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor R Bell, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance thanked the Corporate Director and his team for the comprehensive update on the Council's treasury management activity during the first half of the financial year. It was pleasing to note that the Council had continued to fully comply with all the requirements of the treasury management policy and strategy agreed by Council in February 2023.

9 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

The Council received the 2023 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

The County Durham Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 focused on the following:

- Foreword by the Director of Public Health.
- Health of our people.
- 10 years of public health in local authority.
- Collaboration, working together to improve lives.

Councillor C Hood, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services welcomed the independent annual report from the Director of Public Health.

This year's report reflected on 10 years of the public health function transferring from the NHS to the local authority. Moving into the local authority provided the environment for public health to advocate, influence and work with others responsible for issues including housing, education, and the economy which all had an impact on people's health. In addition, working with elected Members ensured that public health was focussed more on working with communities.

The Annual Report provided an update on the current health and wellbeing of County Durham residents and highlighted some in-depth work to understand the needs of veterans across County Durham. It also recognised some of the challenges faced over the last 10 years such as the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis and how this had impacted locally.

The Health and Wellbeing Board had overseen a range of work over the last 10 years including the integration of health and social care. The Annual Report provided an update on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the work undertaken against the four current key health priorities for County Durham which were making smoking history, enabling healthy weight for all, improving mental health resilience and wellbeing and reducing alcohol harm.

The report highlighted that smoking prevalence had decreased by 6.7%, which was a reduction of 26,700 smokers since 2013. However, at 14.5% County Durham's levels remained above the national average and there was a need to concentrate efforts in County Durham to have a smoke-free future for families. It also highlighted the strong links with social determinants of health with joint work between health and economy for an example.

There were still significant areas of challenge on relation to the health and wellbeing of residents including mental health. The Health and Wellbeing Board had mental health across the life course as a priority

Key programmes of work included school based mental health support, suicide prevention and campaigns including 'Now You're Talking', working with partners to improve mental health and tackle stigma and discrimination.

Councillor J Elmer referred to the health benefits from access to open space and informed Council that he was involved in two projects about access to open space and providing walking opportunities and registered his concern that both projects were under threat. The Director of Public Health replied that as the Physical Activity Strategy Action Plan was implemented, she would have a discussion with Councillor Elmer about the projects.

Councillor C Fletcher informed Council it was important for public health to work alongside and collaborate with all partners and having a holistic approach to health was essential. Councillor Fletcher asked how public health worked alongside housing associations. Councillor Fletcher also thanked the Director of Public Health for the continued support of the Help to Health volunteer driver scheme.

The Director of Public Health replied that public health worked closely with housing colleagues and was currently working with the Council on its housing and homelessness strategies. Housing colleagues were also engaged through key public health task groups.

Councillor L Hovvels referred to leisure facilities across the County and their part in keeping people healthy, fit and combatted social isolation which had not been mentioned.

The Director of Public Health replied that public health officers worked closely with colleagues in Culture, Sport and Tourism and had been undertaking health impact assessments to ensure benefits of leisure facilities were maximised.

Councillor A Bell, whilst welcoming the reduction in the number of smokers, asked whether the increased use of vapes was resulting in an increase in nicotine dependency. The Director of Public Health replied that the Government consultation on 'Stopping the Start' which looked at both increasing the age of sale for cigarettes also looked to tighten the legislation in relation to vaping. It was known from evidence that vaping, although not totally risk free, was much safer than smoking. For those who smoked, the ability to switch to and have access to vaping was very important. Whilst the number of children and young people smoking had reduced, the number vaping had increased, although this had not been reflected in an increase in smoking as yet.

Councillor M McKeon asked how a more mental health focus could be applied to the Obesity Strategy. The Director of Public Health replied that the Strategy had recently been refreshed and now had clear links between mental health and food choices.

Councillor A Batey referred to leisure facilities and the importance that everybody had access to leisure facilities no matter where they lived within the County. The Chief Executive replied that a report would be brought to Cabinet in the new year on the Leisure Transformation Programme.

Councillor D Hall referred to Alzheimer's and dementia which appeared to be a hidden problem, despite the scale, highlighted a need for a joined up

strategy across the Council, GP practices and the CCGs to address this issue. The Director of Public Health replied that Alzheimer's and dementia were both important issues. Under the Mental Health Strategic Partnership dementia was a key area. Commissioning colleagues were undertaking a needs assessment within local communities which would lead to a refresh of what the strategic approach would be.

Councillor F Tinsley referred to the differences in life expectancy for both men and women between affluent and deprived areas in County Durham. Looking at absolute life expectancy County Durham was approximately two years behind the UK average, which increased to four to five years for healthy life expectancy. Councillor Tinsley asked the Director of Public Health whether she agreed that life expectancy was not improving at a rate it should be and whether it could be argued, particularly over the last 10 to 13 years, the situation was getting worse.

The Director of Public Health replied that recently, up until the pandemic, life expectancy and healthy life expectancy had increased. What was now being witnessed was the stalling and impact of the pandemic. Focussing on those who needed the support most was a key part of the implementation plan which aimed to tackle both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.

10 Request for Dispensation Under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which requested approval for a dispensation for Councillor J Chaplow who was currently unable to attend any Council meetings due to ill-health (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor S Deinali, **Seconded** by Councillor R Adcock-Forster.

Resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

11 Motions on Notice

The Chair informed Council that there was one Motion for consideration.

Councillor C Hunt **Moved** the Motion as printed with the addition of the word 'legal' at the end of the second paragraph before the word 'vaping, so the Motion now read as follows:

Council welcomes the announcement from the Government on 4th October 2023 around a smokefree generation and the plans to stop a new generation of children and young people getting hooked on such a lethal addiction.

Council also welcomes the subsequent consultation “Stopping the start – a plan to create a Smokefree generation” which has questions around age of sale of tobacco, measures to reduce youth vaping, and enhanced enforcement. Council will continue to encourage smokers to try to quit including by an option of switching over to legal vaping.

This Council requests that the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services responds to the government’s consultation supporting the age of sale proposal for tobacco, and on vaping proposing that evidence based measures to tighten the promotion, packaging, branding, pricing of vapes to reduce appeal to children and young people are taken.

Council **agreed** to the inclusion of the additional word ‘legal’.

Seconded by Councillor Hood, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services.

Councillor L Hovvels thanked Councillor Hunt for bringing the Motion.

The Motion, as amended, was **Carried**.

12 Questions from Members

Councillor K Shaw

Can the Leader provide the council an update on the round 3 levelling up bids for County Durham and can the Leader provide council with the total costs for DCC in preparing bids for rounds 1,2 and 3

Councillor A Hopgood, Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Shaw for his question and provided the following response.

As I am sure Cllr Shaw is aware given the press coverage, all 5 remaining bids were unsuccessful in round 3. In total the council has spent £1.2 million preparing the bids, which, had we been successful, would have been approximately 1% of the funding received.

Government disclosed that they had changed the rules regarding the awarding of funding for round 2 bids after bids were submitted. Just to remind you, this change ruled out an authority from being successful in round 2 if they had received a successful round 1 bid, regardless of their scale of need. As a result of this, we wrote to government requesting reimbursement of our costs. The response we received to this request was that we could re-submit bids in round 3 on which further guidance would be provided.

Following the announcement of successful round 3 bids a few weeks ago, once again after the event, we discovered that the criteria had been changed yet again without anyone's knowledge. This time we understand that County Durham had been removed as a Priority 1 status area, therefore reducing the likelihood of any success.

I can confirm that as a result of being made aware of this, and there being no more bidding rounds, a further letter has been sent to Government requesting full reimbursement of the councils costs. I am more than happy to share a copy of that letter with members.

As a supplementary question Councillor Shaw asked given the Leader's disappointment would she agree with the Labour Group that the Council should take every possible step, including if necessary explore legal options, to get our communities money back from what has been a failed Conservative beauty pageant.

The Leader replied that the letter had been sent and had also confirmed that when the announcement was made

She and Councillor R Bell were both at the County Council Conference in Buckinghamshire where the Right Honourable Secretary of State was present and he was told in no uncertain terms by them personally what they thought of the whole procedure and how disappointed they were and had told him that the County Council would be challenging it.

County Council

24 January 2024

Report from the Cabinet



Electoral division(s) affected:

All

Purpose of the Report

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 December 2023 to enable Members to ask related questions by no later than midday 3 working days before the day of the meeting

Contents

Item 1 - 'Think Autism in County Durham' Strategy – Update Report

Item 2 - Mainstream Primary and Secondary Formula Funding 2024/25

Item 1 – 'Think Autism in County Durham' Strategy – Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services and Councillor Chris Hood, Cabinet Portfolio for Adult and Health Services

We considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which provided an update on progress following the refresh of 'Think Autism in County Durham': Autism Strategy for Children, Young People and Adults into an updated strategy for 2023-2026.

Decision:

We:

- (a) agreed the findings of the report and the updated strategy, and;
- (b) supported communications and awareness raising as part of National Autism Awareness Week in Spring 2024

Item 2 - Mainstream Primary and Secondary Formula Funding 2024/25 – Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services and Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance

We considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Director of Resources which provided an overview of the forecast Dedicated Schools Grant School Block and proposed local formula for allocating funding to individual schools in 2024/25, where the proposal is that the council continues to align the local mainstream primary and secondary formula funding in 2024/25 with the National Funding Formula.

Decision:

We:

- (a) agreed that in 2024/25 the local formula continues to be aligned to the National Funding Formula;
- (b) noted that the formula factors will be finalised upon receipt of the finance settlement, including funding and school data, which will be used to set the local formula according to the approach agreed in (a);
- (c) agreed to the adjustment for basic need growth funding for Framwellgate Primary School in 2024/25 and noted that this is the last year this adjustment will be required; and
- (d) noted that the detailed formula will be included in the MTFP(14) and 2024/25 budget report in February 2024.

Background Papers

Cabinet Agenda and Reports

[Cabinet Agenda and Papers - 13 December 2023](#)

Councillor A Hopgood,
Leader of the Council
16 January 2024



County Council

24 January 2024

**Updated Local Code of Corporate
Governance**

Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

**Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio
Holder for Finance**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides Council with the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance, which was considered and approved by Audit Committee on 27 November 2023.

Executive summary

- 2 The Local Code of Corporate Governance is a public statement that sets out the way the Council will meet its commitment to demonstrating that it has the necessary corporate governance arrangements in place to perform effectively.
- 3 Various updates and amendments have been made to the Local Code of Corporate Governance following the annual governance review 2023, to reflect changes during the year and to better reflect the arrangements currently in place.
- 4 At a meeting on 27 November 2023, the Audit Committee considered and approved a draft version of the revised Code, which was marked-up to highlight each individual change. It is a requirement for Full Council to receive and consider the Local Code of Corporate Governance on an annual basis and the updated document is attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendation

5 Council is recommended to:

- (a) receive the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance (attached at Appendix 2), which was approved by Audit Committee on 27 November 2023.

Background

- 6 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way which functions are exercised.
- 7 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including the management of risks.
- 8 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require a local authority to review at least once a year the effectiveness of its system of internal control. This requirement will be fulfilled if the review is conducted in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 (the DGG Framework).
- 9 The Council should be able to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the core and sub-principles contained in the Framework and, to facilitate this, it should therefore develop and maintain a Local Code of Corporate Governance reflecting the principles set out.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

- 10 The Local Code of Corporate Governance is a public statement that sets out the way the Council will meet its commitment to demonstrating that it has the necessary corporate governance arrangements in place to perform effectively. It represents a key component of the Council's governance arrangements and applies to all Council members, officers, partners, and stakeholders in their dealings with the Council.
- 11 The Code was revamped to meet the requirements of the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016), which remains current, and is now reviewed annually.
- 12 The Code has been revised to incorporate elements of the Council's governance arrangements that have been strengthened or updated to ensure ongoing effectiveness, taking account of the annual governance review 2022/23. These include new and updated strategies, communication and engagement frameworks, partnership governance arrangements and service standards.

- 13 The Audit Committee has considered and approved a draft version of the revised Code, which was marked-up to highlight each individual change.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The governance review process ensures that the Council discharges its statutory duties under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as set out at paragraphs 5 to 8 of the report. The Code of Corporate Governance enables the Council to demonstrate how it complies with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016.

Finance

There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, financial planning and management is a key component of effective corporate governance.

Consultation

Engaging local communities meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Engaging local communities including hard to reach groups meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Climate Change

There are no direct climate change implications, but good governance helps to avoid or minimise adverse impacts.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

There are no impacts on staffing but ensuring the adequate capability of staff meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications, but asset management is a key component of effective corporate governance.

Risk

There are no reportable risks associated with the report, but the assessment of corporate risk is a key component of the Council's governance arrangements.

Procurement

There are no procurement implications, but the procurement function helps meet several core principles of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance by, for example, minimising fraud, corruption and non-compliance with legislation and good practice, thereby helping to secure value for money and effective service delivery.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require a local authority to conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control. A statement reporting on the review must be included in an Annual Governance Statement published with the Statement of Accounts.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement must be “prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts.” To help meet this requirement, this code has been produced in accordance with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016), “The DGG Framework”.

2. What is Governance?

- 2.1 The International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy / International Federation of Accountants, 2014), the ‘International Framework’, defines governance as follows:

Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.

- 2.2 The International Framework also states that:

To deliver good governance in the public sector, both governing bodies and individuals working for public sector entities must try to achieve their entity’s objectives while acting in the public interest at all times. Acting in the public interest implies primary consideration of the benefits for society, which should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholders.

- 2.3 The diagram below, taken from the International Framework shows how the various principles of good governance in the public sector relate to each other.



3 The Principles of Good Governance

3.1 The DGG Framework requires governance processes and structures to focus on the attainment of sustainable outcomes for the economy, society and the environment. The Council acknowledges that sustainability and the links between governance and public financial management are crucial and pledges to take account of the impact of current decisions and actions on future generations.

3.2 Principles A and B are consistently applied through principles C to G and ensure that the Council achieves its intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times. This requires:

A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

3.3 In addition to the overarching requirements for acting in the public interest in principles A and B, achieving good governance in the public sector also requires effective arrangements for:

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

D. Determining and planning the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

E. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

F. Managing risks, data and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

4 The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance

4.1 The Council is committed to, and endeavours to maintain, an effective governance framework to meet the principles set out in this Code.

4.2 This Code also aims to ensure that the Council responds appropriately to sustained pressures from a variety of sources.

4.3 The components that make up the Council's governance framework are many and varied. They include: -

- The statutory officers with responsibilities and powers to protect good governance, namely, the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), the Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 Officer (Corporate Director of Resources) and the Monitoring Officer (Head of Legal and Democratic Services).
- The Head of Corporate Affairs reports directly to the Chief Executive and leads on the council's management of corporate affairs and provides support to the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team to deliver the strategic priorities of the council. This non-statutory role includes responsibility for corporate communications and media as well as corporate strategy, planning and performance.
- Internal and partner strategy documents that set out a longer-term vision for the future of the County and identify the most important priorities;
- Internal and partner policy documents and codes that regulate committee and business activities to ensure that they comply with the law and that the Council's objectives and values are supported;
- Committees and officer groups that regulate and/or monitor Council or business activities to ensure that they comply with the law and that the Council's objectives and values are supported;
- Other systems, processes and documents, including self-assessment tools, that support or evidence the principles of good governance set out in The DGG Framework.

4.4 The key document supporting the Council's governance arrangements is the [Constitution](#), which sets out how we operate, how decisions are made and the rules and procedures we follow to ensure our work is efficient and transparent and that we are accountable to local people. The Constitution Working Group, which is chaired by the Leader of the Council and consists of the lead Members from each political party, co-ordinates proposed changes, and these are approved by Full Council. A full annual review is carried out each year.

4.5 A fundamental feature of the Council's governance arrangements is the overview and scrutiny system, the role of which is to review policy and challenge whether the Executive has made the right decisions to deliver policy goals. Audit Committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework. Their function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management. The purpose of the audit committee is to provide those charged with governance independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes. Another key feature is the Standards Committee, which is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors, independent members, and co-opted members. Further details on the overview and scrutiny function and the Standards Committee are included under Principle A.

- 4.6 This section describes, with reference to the components of the Council's governance framework, how each of the principles and sub-principles of this Code will be met. In addition to the components listed above, where relevant, references to key legislation, professional standards and codes of practice are made.

Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.

Why this is important

- 4.7 The Council is accountable not only for how much it spends, but also for how it uses the resources under its stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes it has achieved. In addition, the Council has an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, it can demonstrate the appropriateness of all its actions and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.

How we meet this principle

- 4.8 Key governance documents supporting Principle A include:

[Constitution](#) – Codes of Conduct for Members; Contract Procedure Rules; Decision Making; Functions and Responsibilities of Key Officers; Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements; Protocol on Member/Officer Relations; Other Codes and Protocols; Roles and Functions of Members.

Other – Code of Our Values, Behaviours and Conduct (Employees); [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing Policy\)](#); [Corporate Complaints Policy](#); [Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy](#); [Fraud Response Plan](#); Member Role Descriptions ([Councillor Compact](#)); Officer and Member Gifts & Hospitality Register and Procedures; [Overview and Scrutiny Handbook](#); [Slavery and human trafficking statement 2020-21](#); Statutory Officers; [Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Policy](#).

A1 Behaving with integrity

- 4.9 The Council ensures that its values are communicated and understood, and that members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated. This is achieved by:
- Setting out in the [Code of Our Values, Behaviours and Conduct](#) what is important to us. We work together to achieve the best for people; we put people and communities at the heart of everything we do and value our employees; we value, trust and support each other; we embrace change and look for better ways to deliver services.

- Setting out, in the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations and their respective codes of conduct, the behaviour that is expected between members and officers, and the implications of any breaches. The Protocol, which may be taken into account if there is a complaint about a member or an officer, promotes politeness and respect as well as clarity and certainty in relation to roles and expectations, including limitations of behaviour. The Monitoring Officer periodically reminds members and officers of their mutual obligations.
- Seeking individual commitment to the codes from members and officers during induction, through annual, written reminders and in performance appraisals.
- Assigning the Constitution Working Group, chaired by the Leader of the Council and consisting of the lead Members from each political party, to oversee the maintenance and approval of the codes and protocols in the [Constitution](#). The Codes of Conduct are intended to be consistent with the Seven Principles of Public Life* (the Nolan Principles), which must be observed by members and employees when conducting the business of the Council or acting as a representative of the Council.
* Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, and Leadership.
- Setting out in the Financial Procedure Rules, supported by more detailed Financial Management Standards, the framework for managing the Council's financial affairs and ensuring that they are strictly adhered to in practice.
- Setting out in the Contract Procedure Rules how contracts for goods, works, services and utilities should be put in place and managed, and detailing the record keeping and reporting requirements related to procurement activity.
- Members leading by example by adhering to these principles in decision making and during meetings with fellow members, employees, the community and partners.
- Maintaining Registers of Interest for members and officers and formally registering interests at meetings and declaring gifts and hospitality. The Monitoring Officer maintains quarterly oversight of the Register of Officers Gifts and Hospitality and presents an annual report to the Corporate Management Team. The process for declaring officers' personal interests, [gifts and hospitality](#) is digitised and declarations are recorded on the employee's personal file.

4.10 The Council endeavours to demonstrate, communicate and embed its values through the following policies and processes, which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively. This is achieved by:

- Providing guidance, through the [Fraud Response Plan](#), which supports the [Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy](#), to employees and managers on the procedures that must be followed in the event of suspected fraud, theft or other irregularity.
- Requiring the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager to verbally inform the Section 151 Officer, [Audit Committee](#) and External Audit of any serious cases of fraud.
- Reporting the outcomes of anti-fraud and corruption work to [Audit Committee](#) as part of Protecting the Public Purse updates.

- Enabling employees, through the [Confidential Reporting Code](#) to raise serious concerns within the Council rather than overlooking a problem or 'blowing the whistle' externally.
- Including in the Durham Managers training programme a course that explains how the [Confidential Reporting Code](#) should be used as a means to 'blow the whistle' where appropriate.
- Using the [procedure for reporting breaches](#) to enable individuals with a role in the Local Government Pension Scheme to fulfil their duty to report breaches of law that are likely to be of material significance to the Pensions Regulator.
- Maintaining arrangements, through the [Corporate Complaints Policy](#), for non-statutory complaints about services, which are reported to [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) along with details of investigations by the Commissioner for Local Administration.
- Maintaining arrangements for complaints against employees, which are referred to the Corporate Fraud Team, Human Resources and the respective Service Management to ensure a proper investigation.
- Assigning the Monitoring Officer to oversee the arrangements for conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality for members and officers, who are required to review their declarations annually.
- Publishing the Register of Gifts, Interests and Hospitality for Members on the website under the relevant meeting or on the [Your Councillor webpage](#).

A2 Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values

4.11 The Council seeks to establish, monitor and maintain ethical standards and performance, while underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the organisation's culture and operation. This is achieved by:

- Assigning the [Standards Committee](#) to promote and maintains high standards of conduct by councillors, independent members and co-opted members.
- Assigning the Appeals and Complaints Committee to determine appeals against decisions made by the Council.
- Maintaining an effective scrutiny function that encourages constructive challenge and enhances performance through the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- The role, functions and scope of the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and the five thematic committees are set out in detail in the [Constitution](#) and the [Overview and Scrutiny Handbook](#). They allow a wider involvement in Council business by involving non-councillors from the wider public sector, voluntary and community groups to help them in their work. They may make reports and recommendations to the Executive and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.
- Review and scrutinise the conduct, decisions and actions of Police and Crime Commissioner through the [Durham Police and Crime Panel](#), which is made up of members from Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.

- Periodic review of the Officers Gifts and Hospitality Register by the Monitoring Officer.
- Providing, through the [Constitution](#), roles for independent members and co-opted members on the Standards Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, [Audit Committee](#) and Police and Crime Panel.
- Reporting bi-annually, through the Internal Audit Service, to Corporate Management Team and the [Audit Committee](#) on investigations into misconduct, including any measures taken to enhance the control environment in order to prevent incidences happening in the future.
- Embedding ethical values through a variety of channels, including online training, briefings and news bulletins.
- Rewarding good ethical behaviour through the Inspiring People Awards and awarding instant recognition certificates to those who make an exceptional contribution in this area.
- The [Slavery and human trafficking statement 2022-23](#), through which the Council aims to understand and address all potential modern slavery and human trafficking risks related to its business.

4.12 The Council places emphasis on agreed ethical values by:

- Maintaining a range of key ethical codes and protocols, such as the codes of conduct for members and employees, and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, in the Council [Constitution](#).
- Using the above codes and protocols to set the tone for subsidiary policies and procedures in areas such as procurement, recruitment, staff discipline, gifts and hospitality and declarations of interest.

4.13 The Council requires external providers of services on its behalf to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards. This is achieved by:

- Including the Council's ethical values in protocols for partnership working.
- Seeking, through the [Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Policy](#), to implement procedures that protect the long-term interests of the communities we represent, in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. Instructing bidding organisations to bring the above policy to the attention of bidders.
- Addressing ethical supply chain issues through [Sustainable Buying Standards](#), which are mandatory in all relevant council contracts.
- Vetting potential contractors for convictions and violations for specified offences, as required by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

A3 Respecting the rule of law

4.14 The Council endeavours to ensure that members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations. It also seeks to create the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders, and members, can fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative, regulatory and other legal requirements. This is achieved by:

- Through the [Constitution](#);
 - Committing to exercise all powers and duties in accordance with the law;
 - Setting out Member Role Descriptions and the functions and responsibilities of key officers, recognising those posts that are statutory;
 - Committing to provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed;
 - Designating the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service in accordance with Section 4 Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
 - Designating the Corporate Director of Resources as the Section 151 Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to fulfil the governance requirements of the CIPFA* Statement on the Role of the CFO in Local Government (2010).
- * Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy

- Maintaining, under the supervision of the Chief Executive, a chief officer structure that is equipped to respond to modern challenges faced by the Council.
- Making the CFO a member of Corporate Management Team, reporting directly to the Chief Executive and reviewing all reports to Cabinet which have financial implications.
- Maintaining arrangements for members and officers to work together on the work programme of the Cabinet, which is managed through a system of Cabinet pre-agenda meetings, supported by regular briefing sessions held by Corporate Directors with Cabinet Portfolio Members and their support Members.
- Providing specialist legal advice through Legal & Democratic Services.
- Providing training, awareness and advice, through central support services, to meet general legal requirements in areas such as data protection, freedom of information, equalities and health and safety.
- Making staff aware of relevant statutory provisions through formal training, written guidance and implementing appropriate service-specific arrangements to ensure compliance.

4.15 The Council strives to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholders by:

- Designating, in accordance with Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services as Monitoring Officer, who attends Corporate Management Team and advises on legal issues.
- Authorising the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, under the [Constitution](#) to institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where she considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.
- [Selective licensing](#) of privately rented properties from April 2022 until March 2027, which aims to drive up standards and thereby improve communities.

The Council uses its powers to regulate landlords and managing agents in areas that suffer from low housing demand or high levels of anti-social behaviour or deprivation.

- Tackling anti-social behaviour with partners through the [Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022-2025](#).

4.16 The Council endeavours to deal effectively with corruption, misuse of power and breaches of legal and regulatory provisions by:

- Maintaining a dedicated Corporate Fraud Team to support its counter fraud arrangements.
- Vigorously dealing with breaches of legal or regulatory provisions through disciplinary or criminal proceedings, as appropriate.
- Enabling employees, contractors and suppliers, through the [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing Policy\)](#), to raise concerns about potential breaches of conduct in decision-making.
- Thoroughly investigating and, if confirmed, vigorously pursuing any allegations of corruption and misuse of power, seeking the strongest possible sanctions against those who seek to defraud the Council, regardless of whether they are staff, members, contractors, external individuals and organisations.
- Exercising regulatory and enforcement functions under the [Environment, Health & Consumer Protection enforcement policy](#), which requires authorised officers to have regard to codes of conduct, legislation and other statutory provisions, and adhere to the 'principles of good regulation' to improve outcomes without imposing unnecessary burdens on individuals and businesses.
- Undertaking Public Protection Service enforcement and intervention activity in relation to licensing, neighbourhoods, trading standards and safer communities.

Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Why this is important

4.17 Local government is run for the public good. The Council should therefore ensure openness in its activities. Clear, trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders. Institutional stakeholders are the other organisations that local government needs to work with to improve services and outcomes (such as commercial partners and suppliers as well as other public or third sector organisations) or organisations to which they are accountable.

How we meet this principle

4.18 Key governance documents supporting Principle B include:

[Constitution](#) – Audit Committee Role; Decision Making; How the Council operates; Joint Arrangements and Partnerships; Officer Scheme of Delegations.

[Other](#) – [Area Action Partnerships](#) Terms of Reference; [Consultation Statement](#); [Consultations web page](#); [Framework for Good Workforce Mental Health in County Durham Businesses](#); [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025](#); [notice of key decisions webpage](#); [officer decisions webpage](#); [partnership governance framework](#); [petitions webpage](#); [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#); [County Durham Vision 2035](#); [Transparency and Accountability webpage](#).

B1 Openness

4.19 The Council maintains an open culture and encourages wide public involvement in determining the most appropriate and effective interventions and courses of action. This is achieved by:

- Encouraging a climate of openness, headed by the Council Leader who holds regular Cabinet meetings at various locations in the County.
- Maintaining a website that is designed to make it easy for users to find information and includes a [Transparency and Accountability webpage](#) to comply with the [Local Government Transparency Code 2015](#).
- Publishing information on the website about services provided, land and assets owned by the Council, organisational structures and salaries, counter fraud, how money is spent and how services are bought.
- Deploying a range of research, consultation and engagement techniques so that the selected approach is fit for each given purpose.
- Taking a planned approach to encourage participation in new initiatives to ensure that the public's views are incorporated into decision making processes.

4.20 The Council seeks to make decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes, with a presumption for openness and, where relevant, giving reasons for keeping any decision confidential. Clear reasoning and evidence will be provided for decisions, being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used to ensure that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear. These aims are achieved by:

- Setting out in the [Constitution](#) how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures followed to ensure that these are effective, transparent and accountable to local people.
- Publishing on the website: advance [notice of key decisions](#) covering a rolling period of four months; decisions made by the Executive, within two days of the respective meeting; and all major decisions that are in the public domain.
- Publishing all [officer decisions](#) made under the Officer Scheme of Delegations ([Constitution](#)).
- Supporting the Council's decision-making processes with:
 - A [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#);

- An [Audit Committee](#) responsible for monitoring and reviewing processes for risk management, internal control, governance and associated assurance; and
- Arrangements to ensure that they comply with legal requirements and that all reports requiring a decision include the legal implications, confirm that legal advice has been obtained on proposals, and the source of that legal advice.
- Including in the Council's stated principles for decision making the giving of reasons for decisions and supporting them with references to legal or other professional advice and stating the potential implications in terms of finance, staffing, risk, human rights and several other factors.

B2 Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders

4.21 The Council seeks to effectively engage with institutional stakeholders and, where necessary, develop formal and informal partnerships to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear. The aims of this approach are to ensure that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably, with efficient use of resources. This is achieved by:

- Establishing a vision for the County Durham Partnership that provides a strategic direction and enables close working between partners for the benefit of our residents.
- The [County Durham Partnership](#), chaired by the Leader of the Council, including: the board and forum, which bring together the board and local communities; five partnerships (Health and Wellbeing Board and Outbreak Engagement Board (statutory); Safe Durham Partnership (statutory); Economic Partnership; Environment and Climate Change Partnership and County Durham Together Partnership); Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership; Durham Safeguarding Adult Partnership; Better Together Voluntary and Community Sector Forum; and all Area Action Partnerships.
- Managing relationships with [partners](#) to ensure that: members are clear about their roles and responsibilities; there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership; and representatives both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions.
- Working with strategic partners through the Local Resilience Forum on collective capacity and capability, protection from the COVID-19 virus, managing deaths and planning for the future.
- Providing support and oversight, through a Chief Officer Safeguarding Group chaired by the Chief Executive, to chief officers across all statutory agencies of the safeguarding arrangements for children and adults' services. The Group has an independent Chair and includes officers from the Council, NHS and the Police.
- Regularly reviewing governance arrangements and structures for strategic partnerships to evaluate their effectiveness.
- Allowing, through the [Constitution](#), joint arrangements to be established for specific purposes such as the provision and maintenance of crematoria, and

setting out details of existing joint arrangements, including purpose, parties and effective dates.

- Shaping and supporting a common vision and approach for community engagement through the County Durham Partnership.
- Including in the [CDP](#) a range of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that work together to improve the quality of life for the people within County Durham.
- Managing, within service groupings, informal, collaborative working arrangements with external organisations.
- Ensuring that [partnerships](#) are based on trust, a shared commitment to change, a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners, and that the added value of partnership working is explicit.
- The County Durham Together Partnership, formerly the Prevention Steering Group, identifies areas of work requiring early interventions to reduce demand on services and impacts on stakeholders.

B3 Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively

4.22 Through the [Consultation Statement](#), the Council seeks to establish a clear policy on the type of issues on which it will consult on and involve communities, individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders. The Council aims to ensure that the views of local people and visitors are used to set priorities, influence policy and decision making, and that service provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes. Council-wide Consultation Officer Group, chaired by Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, coordinates all consultation activity across the authority.

4.23 The Council endeavours to ensure that communication methods are effective, and that members and officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagement, in order to collect and evaluate the views, experiences and future needs of people and organisations of different backgrounds. This approach is combined with effective feedback mechanisms to demonstrate how views have been taken into account and balancing feedback from more active and other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity. This is achieved by:

- Assigning the Corporate Communications and Marketing Team to lead on communications with external audiences through local, regional and national media with direction and guidance provided through communications protocols.
- Welcoming [petitions](#) and recognising that they are an effective way for people to voice their concerns.
- Engaging with the community, through 14 multi-agency Area Action Partnerships, to identify and address local priorities and utilise locality budgets to drive improvements to the local area.
- Channelling communications and updates on COVID-19 through a [single point of entry](#).
- Using the consultation process to involve a range of stakeholders in refreshing the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025](#).

- Publishing results of [consultation and engagement campaigns](#) on the website with explanations of what has been changed as a result of the views and comments collected.
- Selecting appropriate consultation techniques and engaging through area action partnerships and the voluntary sector to involve all sections of the community effectively.
- Ensuring that selected techniques recognise that different sections of the community have different priorities and establish processes for dealing with these competing demands.
- Seeking, with guidance from the [County Durham Vision 2035](#), the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025](#), supported by the decision making process, to manage resources in ways that do not compromise the quality of life of future generations or those in the wider world.
- The [Framework for Good Workforce Mental Health in County Durham Businesses](#) was developed for small and medium sized businesses and voluntary and community sector organisations, and aims to improve awareness and promote the importance of good workforce mental health.

Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Why this is important

- 4.24 The long-term nature and impact of many of the Council's responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the Council's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens, service users, and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.

How we meet this principle

- 4.25 Key governance documents supporting Principle C include:

[Constitution](#) – Decision Making; Protocol on Member/Officer Relations.

Other – [Children and Young People's Strategy 2019 - 2022](#); [Climate and Emergency Plan](#); Capital Strategy; [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and service plans; [County Durham Plan](#); [County Durham Vision 2035](#); [Digital Strategy, customer services charter and service standards](#); [Equality Policy](#); [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025](#); [Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26](#); [performance management framework](#); [Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24](#); [Inclusive Economic Strategy](#); [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#); [Safe Durham Partnership Plan](#).

C1 Defining outcomes

4.26 The [County Durham Vision 2035](#), which has been produced by the Council in conjunction with its partners on the [County Durham Partnership](#), and demonstrates its shared long-term vision for the future of County Durham. The Vision includes the following ambitions for the place of County Durham:

- there are more and better jobs,
- people live long and independent lives, and
- our communities are well connected and supportive of each other.

There are five underlying themes, which emerged from the extensive public consultation: rural communities, climate change, the natural environment, new technologies and the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. The Vision seeks to address several issues arising from an analysis of performance data and emerging policy, which were further refined after consultation with residents and other interested groups. These issues are the economy; tourism; community spirit; children's health, safety and access to a good education; health; transport; housing; and revitalisation of high streets.

The Vision and ambitions are supported by the following County Durham Partnership Plans:

- Safe Durham Partnership Plan,
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
- Children and Young People's Strategy,
- Regeneration Statement, and
- Climate Emergency Plan.

4.27 In addition to the above arrangements, outcomes are defined through:

- The [Council Plan](#), which is the primary corporate planning document for the county council and details the Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own objectives and change agenda. The [Council Plan](#) aligns to both the council's Medium-Term Financial Plan and the County Durham Plan, which is a spatial representation of our ambitions around housing, jobs and the environment, as well as the transport, schools and infrastructure to support it. The [Council Plan](#) is underpinned by a series of corporate strategies and service planning arrangements providing more detailed information on the actions being undertaken to deliver on our priorities and to avoid duplication.
- Developing, through the [Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 \(MTFP\)](#), a financial framework in line with the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) that enables members and officers to ensure policy initiatives can be planned for delivery within available resources and can be aligned to priority outcomes.
- Subjecting the delivery of the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) to detailed and frequent monitoring undertaken by Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.
- [Police and Crime Plan 2021-24](#).

- Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan.
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups Strategic Plans.
- The [Digital Strategy](#), which sets out the future for connecting Durham, how we will digitally improve our services, support our people, our communities and our organisation to deliver better outcomes for the people of the county.
- The [customer services charter and service standards](#), which outline how customers can expect to be treated when they get in touch with us and specific levels of service that they should receive.
- The [County Durham Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help for Children, Young People and Families](#), which sets out our vision, priorities and approach for providing 'early help' to address inequalities, promote opportunity and secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- The [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Strategy](#) for the period 2022-24, which includes a vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities that is the same as for all children and young people in County Durham: that they are safe and part of their community, have the best start in life, have good physical and mental health, and gain the education, skills, and experiences to prepare them for adulthood.
- The [Town Investment Plan](#), which will lead to the re-use of derelict buildings, walking and cycling improvements, public realm and leisure schemes across the county.
- The [Tenancy Strategy 2022 - 2027](#), which sets out the Council's expectations to the registered providers of social housing operating within the County regarding the types of tenancy they should offer to their tenants.

C2 Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

4.28 The Council considers and balances the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision, taking a longer-term view with due regard to the wider public interest and potential risks. The Council is committed to acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the Council's intended outcomes and short-term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints. This is achieved by:

- Pursuing economic and environmental benefits through the [Climate Change Emergency Response Plan 2022 - 2024](#) and pursuing social benefits through the other themes.
- Including in MTFP planning cycles actions to address the ecological emergency declared for County Durham by Cabinet in [April 2022](#) in response to international and national declines in natural habitats and species.
- Using decision making processes, which include management of performance and risks, to support the achievement of high-level objectives in furtherance of economic, social and environmental benefits.

- Pursuing economic, social and environmental benefits in the development the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).
- Preparing the capital budget reflecting the priorities detailed in the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#), using criteria laid down in the Corporate Capital Protocol.
- Advising Cabinet on the Capital Programme through the Member Officer Working Group for Capital, which is responsible for scrutinising capital budget revisions and monitoring progress on schemes.
- Following the principles of decision making set out in the [Constitution](#).
- Guiding members and employees in their relations with one another and seeking to enhance and maintain integrity by demanding very high standards of personal conduct through the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations ([Constitution](#)).
- Determining, through the [Consultation Statement](#), the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs.

4.29 The Council seeks to ensure fair treatment and fair access to services and opportunities by:

- Using the [Equality Policy](#) to reinforce the Council's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, including compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty, to understand and seek to prevent or mitigate any potential negative impacts as a result of Council decisions for people with protected characteristics (age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, transgender).
- Supporting the [Equality Policy](#) with an equality impact assessment process, which ensures that the impact on equality is considered in the Council's decision making.
- Promoting equality and diversity across all of the Council's work through the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and Scrutiny Committees.
- The [Accessibility Statement](#), through which the Council endeavours to make the full range of services available on our website accessible to everyone, regardless of their skill or technology.
- Using the [Poverty Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026](#) to respond to the impacts poverty and its related issues are having on residents across the county.
- Publishing the [Gender Pay Gap Report 2021](#), which sets out Durham County Council's gender pay gap data, analysis and plans for long term improvements.
- Endeavouring to fulfil the requirements of the Armed Forces (Covenant) Regulations 2022, which came into force in November 2022 and aim to ensure that serving and former armed forces personnel and their families are treated fairly and will not be disadvantaged in accessing public services by their military service.
- Signposting support for the rising cost of living through the [Help with your money](#) portal on the Council's website.

Principle D: Determining and planning the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Why this is important

- 4.30 Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory, and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these courses of action is a critically important strategic choice that local government has to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. They need robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the various types of resource inputs while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made need to be reviewed continually to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.

How we meet this principle

- 4.31 Key governance documents supporting Principle D include:

[Constitution](#) – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules; Decision Making; Financial Procedure Rules; Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.

[Other](#) – Capital Programme; Council Plan and service plans; [Medium Term Financial Plan](#); [partnership governance framework](#); [Performance Management Framework](#); [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#); [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#); [County Durham Vision 2035](#); [Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Policy](#).

D1 Determining interventions

- 4.32 The Council ensures that decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options, indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and highlighting associated risks, in order to secure best value regardless of the service delivery method. This is combined with considering feedback from citizens and service users about proposed service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts. This is achieved by:

- Embedding the pursuit of value for money into all of the Council's decision-making processes.
- Frequently undertaking reviews to provide assurance that value for money services are being provided.
- Using residents' and other stakeholders' views with high level analysis of the equalities impact to shape proposals in the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).

The process for developing a new [Inclusive Economic Strategy](#), agreed by Cabinet in December 2021 and considered by [Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) in March 2022, uses a three-stage process (economic review, economic statement, conversation on strategy)

development), and this was considered by [Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) (E&E OSC) in March 2022.

D2 Planning interventions

4.33 The Council's arrangements for planning the interventions for the achievement of its intended outcomes are:

- Establishing and implementing, through the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) monitoring, robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.
- Engaging with internal and external stakeholders, through participative budgeting and other consultation techniques, in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered.
- Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risks, through the [partnership governance framework](#) and the [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#).
- Ensuring, through the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and business continuity planning, that arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering goods and services can be adapted to changing circumstances.
- Determining, during the development of the [County Durham Vision 2035](#) and the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) how the performance of services and projects will be measured, and linking these arrangements to a locally led [performance management framework](#), which ensures that attention is focused on Council priorities.
- Using key target indicators in areas where improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the Council and its partners.
- Comparing performance with that of other Councils using a recognised, online tool.
- Undertaking, through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, in-depth, evidence-based reviews of services, the findings of which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#).
- Preparing budgets in accordance with the [County Durham Vision 2035](#), the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).
- Informing medium- and long-term resource planning by determining, through Cabinet in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, the general budget strategy and issuing annual guidelines to Members and Chief Officers on preparing: -
 - A detailed revenue budget for the following year and the [MTFP](#).
 - The Capital Programme.
 - The timetable for developing and agreeing the Council's revenue and capital budget.
- The Business, Economy, Regeneration Strategy Recovery Group (a subgroup of the County Durham Economic Partnership) assesses and addresses the economic implications of the pandemic to help businesses to restart and grow the economy.
- The process for [Managing Change in County Durham's Towns and Villages](#) to deliver the [Town Investment Plan](#) was set out in a report to Economy and

Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2021. This includes interventions through Masterplans and Targeted Delivery Plans, and the development and alignment of funding programmes to facilitate change and improvement.

- The [Council House Building Programme](#), phase 2 of which includes the Council's strategy for the development of new council homes within the rural west of the County.

D3 Optimising achievement of intended outcomes

4.34 The Council optimises the achievement of its outcomes by:

- Developing, through the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#), a financial framework in line with the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) to deliver policy initiatives within available resources and aligned to priority outcomes.
- Developing the budgeting process in line with Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, to ensure that it is all-inclusive, and takes into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term.
- Ensuring, through the development of the [MTFP](#) and [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) that partners and stakeholders have a clear view of the Council's priorities, targets and financial plans over the forthcoming period of four years.
- Seeking, through the [Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Policy](#), to implement procedures that protect the long-term interests of the communities we represent, in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- Instructing bidding organisations bring this policy to the attention of bidders.
- The Shareholder Working Group comprising, the Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant portfolio holders, the Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance, oversees performance and proposals in relation to the Council's companies. Shareholder decisions rest with Cabinet or the relevant Corporate Director in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution.
- The Company Governance Group supports the work of the Shareholder Working Group with oversight of the Council's companies' governance arrangements, including consideration of the strategic approach to, and structure of, its' companies and joint venture arrangements. The Group seeks to ensure that officers who work with, or who are appointed as, directors of Council companies understand their roles and responsibilities, identify and manage conflicts of interests, and provide resilience in the Council's resourcing of companies. Company governance training is included in the Council's Workforce Learning and Development Plan. Updates on the Group's work are periodically presented to the Corporate Management Team.

Principle E: Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Why this is important

4.35 The Council needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications, and mindset, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve its intended outcomes within the specified periods. It must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation as a whole. Because both individuals and the environment in which the Council operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of the leadership and of individual staff members. Leadership in the Council is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities.

How we meet this principle

4.36 Key governance documents supporting Principle E include:

[Constitution](#) – Decision Making; The Executive; Financial Procedure Rules; Officer Scheme of Delegations; Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements; Protocol for Questions by the Public to Members of the Executive (Council Procedure Rules).

Other – [Apprenticeship Strategy 2019 to 2022](#); Area Action Partnerships Terms of Reference; Attendance Management Policy; Capital Strategy; Durham Leadership and Management Development Programme; Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy; Learning, Development and Support Programme for Members; [Workforce Strategy 2021 – 23](#); Property Strategy.

E1 Developing the Council's capacity

4.37 The Council strives to maintain the continuing effectiveness of its operations, performance and use of assets through:

- The Council's Inspire Programme, which seeks to enable flexible working through digital and mobile technology, make our workspaces more cost effective and productive, and support collaboration between teams across the organisation.
- Establishing a corporate landlord service delivery model for asset management, overseen by the Head of Corporate Property and Land.
- Regularly monitoring key areas of performance, including the condition, suitability, sufficiency and accessibility of property to ensure that best use is made of assets in terms of service benefit, financial benefit and value for money.
- Setting out in the Property Strategy the main principles to ensure that opportunities to share the use of property are identified, and to make sure

that assets are fit for purpose, cost effective and used to support regeneration and economic development.

- Consulting local communities and partners, where appropriate, about alternative methods of continuing to provide front line services.
- Advising Cabinet on the Capital Programme through the Member Officer Working Group for Capital, which is responsible for scrutinising capital budget revisions and monitoring progress on schemes.
- Formally reflecting on experiences and using learning to strengthen capacity and capability.
- The [Cyber Security Strategy](#) and the actions contained within, which aim to further strengthen and secure the Council from cyber threats by increasing security awareness throughout our workforce, investing in our systems and digital infrastructure, deterring our adversaries, and developing a wide range of responses, from basic cyber hygiene to the most sophisticated defences.
- A hybrid working model, introduced in February 2022 following the cessation of Covid Plan B measures, which minimises the potential number of employees in the workplace at any one time, whilst also supporting our future direction of travel to work more flexibly and smarter as an organisation.

4.38 The Council strives to improve the management of its funding and resources to ensure that they are allocated and utilised in a way that realises outcomes effectively and efficiently. This is achieved through:

- The Inspiring Change element of the Inspire Programme, which seeks to invest in new IT systems, modernise and simplify business processes, redesign services in localities to meet community needs, and introduce more commercial activity to support social objectives.
- The policy and process, developed through the Community Assets Steering Group, to oversee new and existing asset transfers.
- Using benchmarking data from statutory returns to inform programmes of VFM reviews and savings options in various service areas in order to ensure that defined outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently.
- Using data from commercial benchmarking clubs, to facilitate meaningful comparisons with other Councils.
- Including in the [County Durham Partnership](#) a range of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that work together to improve the quality of life for the people within County Durham.
- Managing, within service groupings, informal, collaborative working arrangements with external organisations.
- The [Digital Strategy](#), which sets out the Council's digital ambitions for the County and provides a framework within which these ambitions can be delivered in line with the objectives of the Council Vision.
- The [Apprenticeship Strategy 2022 to 2025](#), which aims to identify opportunities for new and existing employees to support workforce development and planning.
- The [Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2022-2024](#), which uses local intelligence and data to identify key priorities and actions that will improve the council's overall sufficiency of

placement provision for children and young people who can no longer live with their family.

4.39 The Council maintains an effective workforce plan, through the Organisational Development Strategy, to enhance the strategic allocation of resources.

E2 Developing the capability of the Council's leadership and other individuals

4.40 The Council ensures that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained. This is achieved by:

- Setting out in the [Constitution](#) how the Executive is made up and how appointments to this committee are made.
- Electing the Leader under the terms of the [Constitution](#), and making appointments to a number of committees with various regulatory and scrutiny responsibilities.
- Nominating, through the Leader, nine other councillors, including a Deputy Leader, with specific responsibilities to form the Cabinet.
- Allocating, through the Leader under the terms of the [Constitution](#), roles and responsibilities to individual members and the Executive Committee as a whole.
- Supporting the above arrangements with a number of formal member and officer working groups.

4.41 The Council makes a clear distinction between the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the Council in the [Constitution](#), which is published on the website.

4.42 The Council clearly defines in the [Constitution](#) the respective roles of the leader and the chief executive, whereby the chief executive leads in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other's authority.

4.43 The Council continually seeks to develop the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective leadership and to enable the organisation to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risks. This is achieved by:

- Ensuring, through the Learning, Development and Support Programme for Members and the Durham Learning and Development System, that members and staff are provided with induction training tailored to their role and individual training and development plans.
- Ensuring, through the Performance and Development Review scheme and the Member Development Programme, that members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and

responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis.

- The Durham Leadership and Management Development Programme, which includes several mandatory courses, including coaching as a management style and mental health awareness for managers. Other courses are linked to corporate priorities, management skills and personal development.
- A portal on the Durham Learning and Development system, which brings together valuable resources and information for managers. Induction for new managers includes, mandatory training, links to policies, useful documentation and guidance, briefings and useful contacts.
- Ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons learnt from governance weaknesses both internal and external
- Promoting excellence in learning through membership of the North East Public Service Academy.
- The Durham Leadership Way programme, which outlines the expectations of leaders and managers together with a development and support offer.

4.44 The Council encourages public participation by:

- Administering 14 multi-agency [Area Action Partnerships \(AAPs\)](#) that enable local people and organisations to comment on how services are provided.
- Inviting members of the public to attend Council meetings.
- Including a protocol for member of the public wishing to ask a question to the Executive.

4.45 The Council ensures that the leadership's own effectiveness is considered and that leaders are open to constructive feedback from scrutiny, peer review and inspections by:

- Monitoring the decisions of the Executive through the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#), which has the power to:-
 - “call-in” decisions which have been made but not implemented; and
 - recommend that their decisions are reconsidered.
- Consulting the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) on forthcoming decisions or the development of policy.
- Assessing the skills required by members and officers through personal development plans and making a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively.
- Developing skills on a continuing basis, through implementation of the Learning, Development and Support Programme for Members, to improve performance, including the ability to scrutinise and challenge and to recognise when outside expert advice is needed.

4.46 The Council strives to maintain effective arrangements to meet employees' needs in terms of training, development, health and wellbeing through:

- The Inspiring People element of the Inspire Programme, which seeks to invest widely in staff training and development, review the Council's HR

policies and procedures, adopt new values and behaviours, empower people to be advocates of change, and identify talent and succession planning.

- Assessing the skills required by officers through personal development plans and making a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively.
- Managing the performance and development of employees through an ongoing appraisal process.
- Supporting employees through the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy and the emergency Human Resources Policy. Absence management arrangements and enhanced family and compassionate leave provisions focus on rehabilitation through the Attendance Management Policy with assistance from Occupational Health.
- Supporting employees through change processes with confidential counselling services through the Employee Assistance Programme.
- A Wellbeing Portal provides support and guidance for managers and non-management employees in relation to mental health and wellbeing.
- The facilitation of staff network groups, administered by the Equality and Diversity and HR Teams and chaired by volunteers, to provide an opportunity for people across the council to meet with others, share and discuss experiences, help shape the working environment, arrange events and offer support to other staff.

Principle F: Managing risks, data and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Why this is important

- 4.47 The Council needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision-making activities.
- 4.48 A strong system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will enforce financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery, and accountability.
- 4.49 It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny is in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful delivery. Importantly, this culture does not happen automatically, it requires repeated public commitment from those in authority.

How we meet this principle

4.50 Key governance documents supporting Principle F include:

[Constitution](#) – Councillor Call for Action Procedure (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules); Decision Making; Financial Procedure Rules; Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.

Other – Capital Strategy; [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#); [Data Protection Policy](#); [Data Quality Policy](#); Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework; [Internal Audit Strategy, Charter and Plan 2022/23](#); [Medium Term Financial Plan](#); [Performance Management Framework](#); [performance reports](#); [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#); service plans.

Professional Codes – CIPFA * Code on a Prudential Framework for Local Authority Capital Finance; CIPFA Financial Management Code; CIPFA * Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit; Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, 2014; National Audit Office Code of Practice on Value for Money; Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

* Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy

F1 Managing risk

4.51 The Council recognises that risk management is an integral part of all activities and decision making as set out in the [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#), which defines key roles and responsibilities and is reviewed annually, to maintain robust, integrated and effective risk management arrangements. Council-owned companies and joint venture arrangements are provided with strategic and financial guidance and support and are required to report regularly on performance.

F2 Managing performance

4.52 The Council ensures that the delivery of strategies, projects and services is effectively monitored by:

- Setting out in service plans a detailed schedule of actions, which are assigned to responsible officers and incorporated into, and monitored through, the corporate and service performance management arrangements.
- Monitoring performance and ensuring that effective arrangements are put in place to deal with any failures in service delivery through the Council's Cabinet.
- Providing assurance through quarterly [performance reports](#) to Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and all scrutiny committees by way of senior management performance clinics during the year. Reports include service-specific dashboards showing actual and target performance and, to enhance transparency, they also include national, North East and nearest neighbour comparisons where relevant data is available.
- Undertaking key in-depth evidence-based reviews through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

- Overseeing quality assurance developments in Children’s Services and maintaining strategic oversight of children’s services through a Quality Improvement Board.
- Operating a locally led [performance management framework](#) that links to the [County Durham Vision 2035](#) and the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#) and ensures that attention is focused on Council priorities.
- Undertaking benchmarking exercises by comparing performance with that of other Councils using a recognised, online tool.
- Seeking assurance on the quality of services from external, independent sources.
- Providing update reports, on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement, to Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Full Council.

4.53 The Council endeavours to make the right decisions for the benefit of its stakeholders by:

- Supporting the Council’s decision-making processes with a [Risk Management Policy and Strategy](#).
- Implementing arrangements to ensure that decisions are based on relevant, clear, objective analysis and advice; comply with legal requirements; and take account of the Council’s financial, social and environmental position and outlook.
- Including in the Council’s stated principles for decision making the giving of reasons for decisions and supporting them with references to legal or other professional advice and stating the potential implications in terms of finance, staffing, risk, human rights and several other factors.
- Maintaining an overview and scrutiny function through which members robustly scrutinise, challenge and debate proposed policies and objectives to make decision-making processes transparent, accountable and inclusive.
- Enabling members to bring matters of local concern to the attention of the Council through the scrutiny process using Councillor Call for Action procedure.

4.54 The Council seeks to ensure consistency between specification stages and post implementation reporting by aligning each new iteration of the Council Plan, the primary corporate planning document, with the cyclical medium term financial planning process. Successive Medium Term Financial Plans, incorporating revenue and capital budgets, set out how priorities will be resourced. Subsequent final outturn reports provide an analysis of the closing position with an account of variations from budgeted income and expenditure.

F3 Robust internal control

4.55 The Council seeks to align the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives, as well as evaluating and monitoring risk management and internal control on a regular basis and ensuring that any recommendations for improvement are implemented. This is achieved by:

- Developing, maintaining and delivering an [Internal Audit Strategy, Charter and Plan 2022/23](#).
- Including in strategic risk management reports and internal audit reports the potential implications for achieving the Council's objectives.
- Reporting annually to [Audit Committee](#), through the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment.
- Undertaking a self-assessment against both the principles of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), approved by [Audit Committee](#).
- Undertaking internal annual reviews of the effectiveness of internal audit and an external assessment once every five years as required by the PSIAS.
- Undertaking a review of the effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance arrangements in line with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework.
- Maintaining an [Audit Committee](#), which is independent of the Executive and accountable to the Full Council, to;
 - provide a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment;
 - advise both the Council and the Cabinet on audit and governance issues in order to provide independent and effective assurance about the adequacy of financial management and reporting, and the management of other processes required to achieve the organisation's corporate and service objectives;
 - make recommendations, which are listened to and acted upon.

4.56 The Council ensures that effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place by maintaining a dedicated Corporate Fraud Team to support its counter fraud arrangements through the [Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy](#), and working towards compliance with the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, 2014.

F4 Managing data

4.57 The Council ensures that effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including decision making and processes to safeguard personal data. This is achieved by:

- Managing data in accordance with the [Data Protection Policy](#), Data Quality Policy, Records Management Policy and various data sharing protocols, with oversight by the Information Governance Group, to ensure that the arrangements in place are effective.
- Designating the Corporate Director of Resources as the Senior Information Risk Officer to strengthen the Council's arrangements for maintaining good-quality information.

- Holding regular meetings with the designated Data Protection Officer, Head of Digital and Customer Services and the Council's designated Caldicott Guardian.
- Providing mandatory Data Protection Act e-learning training for all relevant employees.
- Maintaining strong data protection arrangements regarding data sharing with other bodies through standardised subject access requests, a privacy impact assessment process, data sharing agreements and a data sharing register.
- Undertaking a rolling programme of audits to check the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring.

F5 Strong public financial management

4.58 The Council aims to ensure that financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance. This is combined with seeking to ensure that well-developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls. Investing resources in line with long-term outcomes and priorities as described in the [Council Plan 2023 to 2027](#), which contains a set of actions with proposed outcomes.

- Making the links with priorities and outcomes detailed in the Council's Budget Report.
- Seeking to comply with CIPFA's Code on a Prudential Framework for Local Authority Capital Finance, subject to external audit review.
- Undertaking, through the Council's Internal Audit Team, independent assessments against CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
- Undertaking value for money self-assessments against the National Audit Office Code of Practice, with input from Internal Audit, and review by External Audit.
- Ensuring delivery of transformational change while maintaining service delivery through the [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) process.
- Gaining independent assurance of value for money from the External Auditor.

Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

Why this is important

4.59 Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them. Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the Council plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.

How we meet this principle

4.60 Key governance documents supporting Principle G include:

[Annual Governance Statement](#); [Annual Statement of Accounts](#); [Local Code of Corporate Governance](#); [Local Government Transparency Code 2015](#); [partnership governance framework](#); [Transparency and Accountability webpage](#).

G1 Implementing good practice in transparency

4.61 Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate.

4.62 The Council aims to strike a proper balance between providing the right amount of information in a manner that is transparent and enhances public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and which readers can interpret. This is achieved by:

- Maintaining a website that is designed to make it easy for users to find information and includes a [Transparency and Accountability webpage](#) to comply with the [Local Government Transparency Code 2015](#).
- Publishing information on the website about services provided, land and assets owned by the Council, organisational structures and salaries, counter fraud, how money is spent and how services are bought.

G2 Implementing good practices in reporting

4.63 The Council is committed to reporting to stakeholders at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources in a timely and understandable way, while ensuring members and senior management own the results reported. This is achieved by:

- Developing the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#) incorporating the [Annual Governance Statement](#).
- Publishing the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#) on the website, following approval by [Audit Committee](#), taking account of the views of the External Auditor, in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- Publishing the [Audit Completion Report](#) and Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report, which provides assurance on the Council's system of financial management.
- Including with published information, the minutes of meetings approving reports to ensure that members and senior management own the results reported.

4.64 The Council seeks to ensure that robust arrangements are maintained for assessing and reporting on the effectiveness of its own governance arrangements, as well as those of related organisations. This is achieved by:

- Developing and maintaining a Local Code of Corporate Governance, approved by [Audit Committee](#), setting out how the Council will meet the principles of good governance.
- Assessing the Council's corporate governance arrangements against its Local Code of Corporate Governance, led by the Corporate Director of Resources in consultation with the directors and heads of service.
- Ensuring, through the [partnership governance framework](#), that the corporate governance arrangements of partners and jointly managed or shared service organisations are consistent with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- Reporting the outcome of the corporate governance review, including planned actions for improvement, in the [Annual Governance Statement](#), approved by the Corporate Management Team and the [Audit Committee](#), and signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive.

4.65 The Council seeks to ensure that it produces financial statements on a consistent and timely basis, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards, in a way that enables comparison with other, similar organisations.

G3 Assurance and effective accountability

4.66 The Council seeks to provide continuous assurance with regard to its arrangements for governance and internal control by:

- Operating an Internal Audit service, with direct access to members, as a key part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements with the primary aim of supporting the Council to achieve its objectives by helping services to identify, assess, and manage risks, which may prevent or hinder objectives being achieved effectively.
- Ensuring that agreed recommendations made by Internal Audit and External Audit are acted upon by tracking and reporting their progress to [Audit Committee](#).
- Complying with CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019).
- Applying the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards within all of procedures of the Internal Audit Service.

4.67 The Council welcomes peer challenge, independent reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and seeks to ensure that recommendations are implemented.

4.68 The Council seeks to gain assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties by:

- Managing relationships with partners through the [partnership governance framework](#), which seeks to ensure that:
 - members are clear about their roles and responsibilities;
 - there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership;

- representatives both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions.

4.69 The Council gives due recognition, through its annual Inspiring People awards, for outstanding achievements by teams and individuals.

5 Monitoring and Review

- 5.1. The [Audit Committee](#) and the [Standards Committee](#) are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the various aspects of the Council's corporate governance arrangements.
- 5.2. The [Audit Committee](#) is responsible for the Council's arrangements relating to:
 - Monitoring and reviewing the risk, control and governance processes, and associated assurance processes to ensure internal control systems are effective and that policies and practices are in compliance with statutory and other regulations and guidance.
 - Approving the Council's Accounts prior to approval by the County Council.
 - Reviewing a draft of this Code of Corporate Governance and recommending any amendments required before it is considered for approval by the Full Council.
 - External audit and internal audit.
 - Risk Management.
 - Making recommendations concerning relevant governance aspects of the [Constitution](#).
 - Reviewing the effectiveness of Internal Audit.
- 5.3. Each year the Council is required to publish a Governance Statement. This process is managed by the Resources Management Team and overseen by the [Audit Committee](#) who is responsible for approving it. The Annual Governance Statement provides an overall assessment of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and an appraisal of the key controls in place to manage the Council's principal governance risks, together with proposed improvements that will be made. This governance review process helps inform any amendments required to this Code of Corporate Governance.
- 5.4. The Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts and will be reviewed by our External Auditors as part of their annual audit process.
- 5.5. The [Standards Committee](#) is responsible for promoting high ethical standards across the Council, overview of the Member and Officer Codes and other relevant protocols.
- 5.6. These two Committees will ensure that the Council's governance arrangements are kept under continual review through,
 - Reports prepared by officers with responsibility for aspects of this Code.
 - The work of Internal Audit.
 - External Audit opinion.
 - Other review agencies and Inspectorates.
 - Opinion from the Council's Statutory Officers.

- 5.7. The Council also has a [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and five Overview and Scrutiny Committees who support the work of the Executive and the Council as a whole. They allow a greater involvement in Council business by involving non-councillors from the wider public sector, and voluntary and community groups to help them in their work, and also work with Partners, including the [County Durham Partnership](#). They may also be consulted by the Executive or the Council on forthcoming decisions or the development of policy. The terms of reference of the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and its Committees are described in the [Constitution](#).
- 5.8. Within their terms of reference, the [Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board](#) and Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:
- review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
 - make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions; consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants.
 - exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
 - work to ensure that communities are engaged in the scrutiny process; and consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options; and
 - promote equality and diversity across all of its work and the work of the County Council.



County Council

24 January 2024

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Amanda Hopgood, Leader of the Council

Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance

Electoral division(s) affected:

All

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the proposed changes to the County Council's polling districts and polling places following a review.

Executive Summary

- 2 Each Local Authority is required to carry out a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within its area every 5 years. The County Council must complete a review by 31 January 2025.
- 3 The review commenced on 2 October 2023. The report summarises the comments/observations received during the consultation and sets out the Returning Officer's proposals for change having considered the representations received.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Council is recommended to:
 - (a) Approve the proposed changes to the Council's polling districts and polling places as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.
 - (b) Delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and local members as appropriate to make changes to polling districts and/or places that may be required before the next review.

Background

- 5 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the County Council is required to conduct a review of polling districts and polling places within the County Durham every five years. The last review was completed in 2019. Council must therefore complete it's next review by 31 January 2025.
- 6 During any review the Returning Officer must comment on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used if any new polling places were accepted. The role of Returning Officer is to ensure that an election is administered effectively and that the experience for voters and those standing for election is a positive one.
- 7 Where a local authority makes any alterations, the Electoral Registration Officer who has responsibility for compiling the register of electors must amend the register of electors accordingly.
- 8 The review has considered all polling districts and polling places across County Durham. Currently 477 polling districts make up the existing 63 electoral divisions, within which there are 436 polling places. A polling place is an area or building within a polling district in which a polling station is situated.

The Review process

- 9 The legislative requirements of a polling district review are :-
 - Notification of the Review
 - Consulting on the Review
 - Concluding the Review
 - Publishing the conclusion of the Review
- 10 The Notice of Review was published on the Council's website and displayed in all 9 customer access points on 2 October, together with details of the existing scheme and the Returning Officers' proposals going forward.
- 11 A press release was also issued and details of the consultation arrangements were made available on the main page of the Council's website and at all customer access points.
- 12 Representations were also invited from a number of groups and individuals including
 - Electors via notices on the council's website and in council buildings;

- County Councillors
- Parish Councils
- MPs
- Disabled/Access Organisations via the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer
- Area Action Partnerships/Community Groups
- All existing premises currently used as polling stations
- County Durham Together Partnership
- County Durham Partnership and thematic groups
- Better Together Forum (VSC network)
- Disability Partnership
- Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
- Fire Service
- Advice in County Durham network
- Durham County Carers
- Family Hubs
- Integrated Care Board
- Health Engagement Forum
- Durham Enable
- Durham Community Action

13 The length of the review process is not prescribed in legislation, however the time allowed for consultation should be sufficient to enable interested persons and groups to read and understand the proposal, gather comments and respond with alternative arrangements they may wish to submit. The consultation period lasted from 2 to 30 October in line with the Council's consultation guidelines.

14 Following the close of the consultation the responses were analysed. The comments received and Returning Officer's responses and recommendations are detailed at Appendix 2.

15 Several non-specific letters were received relating to the use of schools as polling stations. The legislation relating to the use of schools as polling stations is the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 which states that the Returning Officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes, a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

- 16 The Returning Officer is aware of the issues and concerns associated with using schools as polling places. Schools are used in polling districts where there are no suitable alternative polling places. Wherever possible officers work with schools to utilise community rooms which allow the school to remain open. However, in some cases this is not possible. The final decision as to whether a school remains open rests with the school management.
- 17 The Returning Officer in considering the arrangements to be made and the representations received, noted that the pattern of polling districts and polling places in the County Council area had evolved to meet successive boundary changes and to meet the convenience of electors across the County. By and large, it ensures that electors have reasonable facilities for voting. Furthermore, in line with the Council's policies and statutory obligations, every attempt has been made to ensure that polling stations were accessible to electors who are disabled.
- 18 The Returning Officer has taken the following considerations into account when drawing up the proposals.
- the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - the Council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled;
 - every parish shall be in a separate polling district;
 - ideally the polling place should be in its own polling district;
 - ideally there should be no more than 2,500 electors per polling place;
 - polling district boundaries should be co-terminus with existing parish ward or division boundaries;
 - a polling station costs approximately £1,100 to hire, equip and staff for polling day.
 - The scheme must be designed to fit the new boundaries coming into force for the next UK Parliamentary General election.
- 19 The Local Government Boundary review of Durham has recently concluded. It will therefore be necessary to conduct a further review of polling districts and places prior to the County and Parish elections in 2025 to ensure that the polling districts align with the new County and Parish boundaries.
- 20 This review has commenced early in the window for completion of the statutory review to ensure that the Scheme reflects the changes

required as a result of the Parliamentary Boundary review which will come into force at the next UK Parliamentary election and which could be called at short notice.

Proposed Changes

- 21 The table attached at Appendix 3 provides a summary of proposed changes to the arrangements for the polling districts and polling places. The proposed changes include alternative polling places where existing places are no longer available, or where more suitable places have been suggested. It also includes a list of those polling districts still under review.
- 22 It is no longer possible to use Portakabins as polling places as they are not big enough to house the equipment required to be provided in accordance with the Elections Act 2012 and ensure accessibility requirements. Where Portakabins have been used historically (prior to the elections in May 2021) alternative polling places have been identified. In some cases, this will mean that electors have further to go to their polling place. Electors will be advised of any changes to their polling place and reminded of their ability to apply for a postal vote. In the run up to the election, the Council will issue countywide communications on voting methods as well as voter ID requirements.
- 23 If approved the scheme will comprise of 423 polling places. Of these 46 are schools, reduced from 48, and overall 6 have changed location.
- 24 Appendix 4 comprises a full list of the final proposed polling arrangements for each Parliamentary constituency ordered in alphabetical county electoral division.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The legislative requirements for a Polling District and Places review are set out at paragraphs 5 and 14 of the report.

Finance

The proposals do not have any impact on the existing financial arrangements.

Consultation and Engagement

The Returning Officer has considered all comments made during the consultation in line with legislation set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983. Where an existing polling place is no longer available, an alternative polling place has been suggested within the report. For those polling places who no longer wish to be used and an alternative polling place has been suggested, consideration has been given to the criteria of a polling place, its location within the polling district and whether it will be accessible to all electors. However, if the suggested polling place is deemed unsuitable, the original polling place will remain in place. Some polling places will remain under review at this point. A full list of proposed changes is set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Constitution Working Group considered the proposals on 9 January 2024 and were supportive of the proposals.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The council ensures it has made every attempt that each polling stations is accessible to electors who are disabled and considers these arrangements when proposing any new or alternative arrangements. Consultation on its review includes seeking comments from people who have expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have disabilities. The Council's Equalities and Diversity Officer is included among the consultees, and comments sought from the Disability Partnership.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

The review helps ensure that electors within County Durham have an opportunity to contribute to the review and maximum opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

The Returning Officer must comment on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used if any new polling places were accepted. The use of schools as polling stations is avoided as far as possible. This is more challenging where public buildings are no longer available or are not accessible venues. Returning Officers may use free of charge for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes, a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate. Wherever possible officers work with schools to utilise community rooms which allow the school to remain open, in some cases however this is not possible.

Risk

If electors are not provided with suitable convenient places to vote it could give rise to reputational damage and adverse publicity. If the review is not completed with the required timescales the Council would be in breach of its legal duties.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2 : Comments received and the Returning Officer's response

BISHOP AUCKLAND CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Barnard Castle West Polling District: BAOB - Middleton-In-Teesdale</p>	<p>Polling Station - Middleton in Teesdale Nursery and Primary School, Town End, Middleton in Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0TG</p>	<p>Please remove from List - Business Manager</p>	<p>A review of the polling district has been conducted. No suitable alternative venues are available.</p> <p>I must recommend continued use of the school as a a polling station.</p> <p>Use of Schools legislation:</p> <p>The Representation of the People Act, 1983, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Bishop Auckland Town Polling District: BABC - Central 5</p>	<p>Polling Station - St Annes CE Primary School (3123), Warwick Road, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6LS</p>	<p>"Disabled access is via the front door and a walk through the school or via a classroom door that has a ramp (not all classrooms). This is a safeguarding concern meaning we couldn't stay open.</p> <p>There is no space in the school that can be closed for the main body of the school. I understand that our nursery has been used in the past but there is no fob secure door between nursery and the rest of the school and no adult toilet in the nursery unit. This means the main body of the school would need to be accessed for toilets. Also closing the nursery for a day causes us a loss of income.</p>	<p>A review of the polling district has been conducted. The area is primarily residential and no alternative venues are available.</p> <p>The Evergreen School nearby caters for children with special educational needs, and it is considered that disruption to the routine of children with special educational needs would have a greater effect if that school were to be used as a polling station.</p> <p>We have previously used the Pollards Inn which does fall within the polling district; however, this was during Covid, and the public house was undergoing refurbishment. The owner has since advised that the Pollards Inn is no longer available for use as a polling station.</p> <p>As there are no viable alternative premises for use as a polling station within this polling district I would recommend remaining at school.</p> <p>Use of Schools legislation:</p> <p>The Representation of the People Act, 1983, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22.</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Coundon</p> <p>Polling Districts: BACB - Coundon Gate</p> <p>BACC – Coundon</p> <p>BACF - Westerton</p>	<p>Polling Station - Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8NN</p>	<p>The nursery does have access however, nursery is not able to be secured from the remainder of the school, which would be a safeguarding breach.</p> <p>Due to the issue above re; access to the rest of the school, if the building was to be used as a polling station the whole building would need to be closed, thus affecting 171 pupils from nursery to Y6.</p>	<p>A review of the polling districts has been conducted and the community gym at Gray Gardens was identified as a possible alternative. This is run by Believe Housing and to date they have not responded to any requests for information about the venue. To conclude the review I recommend that we retain Victoria Lane Academy Nursery as the polling station at this time. If there is a positive contact from Believe Housing and the Community Gym turns out to be a suitable venue an adhoc review and consultation will be carried out.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Spennymoor</p> <p>Polling Districts: BAAFC - Spennymoor 3</p> <p>BAAGA2 - Spennymoor 1A</p>	<p>Polling Station - Oxclose Nursery School (1021), Ox Close Crescent, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RU</p>	<p>We do not wish for the Nursery to be used as a Polling Station and I have outlined the reasons why on the form. These are regarding the nature of the site and associated safeguarding risks through vehicles accessing (this can not be allowed at several points across the day) and the disruption to learning for our youngest pupils (it would not be possible for Nursery to be open while functioning as a polling station and COVID has already affected the early development of this group).</p>	<p>A review of the polling districts has been conducted. As the area is primarily residential no alternative venues are available.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to determine whether the school can remain open whilst being used as a polling station. The Head Teacher will have appropriate regard to safeguarding issues.</p> <p>In the first round of the LGBCE review of Durham there were proposed changes to the warding arrangements within this polling district, which, if remaining in the final proposals may affect the current polling district boundaries. I would therefore recommend remaining at the school until the LGBCE Final Recommendations are published. A further review will be conducted before the scheduled elections in May 2025. However, the existing polling district boundaries remain in place for any polls prior to May 2025 and the Nursery School is required as a polling place in respect of those polls.</p> <p>Use of Schools legislation:</p> <p>The Representation of the People Act, 1983, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Evenwood</p> <p>Polling District: BALC - Woodland</p>	<p>Resident - Simon Land</p>	<p>The Woodland Village Hall is not Equality act compliant. For wheelchair users, access to the hall is only</p>	<p>Woodland Village Hall has been used as a polling station for many years and is a constant and familiar location for the electorate. The venue has been contacted with regards to wheelchair accessibility from the entrance described. The venue has confirmed that the entrance is accessible for</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
		<p>available via the double doors at the side of the building and the paths leading to that are poor with steps. Woodland Village Hall has high definition CCTV in the main hall so it would be difficult to position the voting booths in a position that will ensure secrecy of the vote. The CCTV is accessible remotely. there are few alternatives in the village, St Marys Church, this is accessible, Woodland School (it would be disruptive to close the school for poling day, and the Woodland Parish Council Chapple, This is quite small but is accessible.</p> <p>Accessibility is poor due to the paths surrounding the hall being in a poor state of repair. Access to the main door is via steps.</p> <p>Polling District Boundary Comments BALB and BALC</p> <p>Woodland Village is split between poling districts due to the village being split between two parishes. The parish boundary runs across the village so people in the east end of the village need to travel to Copley which is down a</p>	<p>wheelchair users and accessed on a weekly basis by a user. No issues have been reported to the venue with regards to the access.</p> <p>The CCTV has been discussed with the venue and confirmation received that this will be disabled on polling day.</p> <p>The Returning Officer is responsible for providing a venue, so electors can cast their vote. The surrounding public paths and highways are the responsibility of the local authority, and the resident has been advised to report this issue through the appropriate channels.</p> <p>St Marys Church and Woodland School are both located outside of the polling district in BALB – Copley. This polling district is a different parish council area (Lynesack & Softley); therefore, these locations would not be able to be used for the BALC - Woodland Area polling district.</p> <p>The polling district boundary splits Woodland village as the west of Woodland village lies within Woodland Parish and the east lies within Lynesack and Softly Parish.</p> <p>Due to different parish electoral arrangements, the electors in the east of Woodland village would need to remain at Copley Village Hall polling station. Other voting methods are available to access if an elector could not travel to the polling station. Postal and Proxy voting can be requested online or in paper format.</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
		steep unlit road with no paths. The bus service does not run between Woodland and Copley on an evening.	<p>I recommend that Woodland Village Hall remains as the polling station for BALC – Woodland.</p> <p>I recommend that Copley Village Hall remains as the polling station for BALB – Copley.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Tudhoe Polling District: BAAFA2 - Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 1A?</p>	<p>Polling Station - King Street Primary School (2750), Hub Room, High Grange Road, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RA</p>	<p>Unfortunatley due to the increasing needs of our pupils we are no longer able to offer this space to yourselves</p>	<p>A review of the polling districts has been conducted. An alternative location has been found at Spennymoor Town Football Club. Sole use of the clubs “The Neil Adams Sports Bar” is available, providing a spacious room for elector’s to vote. The access to the suggested room is via a ramped entrance. Limited parking is available at the grounds entrance. The bar does not open on a Thursday.</p> <p>I also propose to use the O’Hehir School of Irish Dance (formerly Barnfield Road Day Centre) which will better serve electors in the surrounding area of the premises.</p> <p>I recommend reallocating the streets within the polling district to each venue. Once the final reccomendations have been published for the LGBCE review, a further review would be conducted to redraw the boundaries for BAAFA1 and BAFA2 to create three polling districts</p> <p>BAAFA1 – The Neil Adams Sports Bar BAAFA2 – Hartley Terrace Commual Room BAAFA3 - O’Hehir School of Irish Dance</p> <p>I recommend new polling stations at The Neil Adams Sports Bar, Spennymoor Town Football Club and adding a further polling station at O’Hehir School of Irish Dance, Barnfield Road.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Tudhoe Polling District: BAAEB1 - Tudhoe 2</p>	<p>Polling Station - Meeting Room 5, Durham County Council Offices, Green Lane, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6JQ</p>	<p>Due to refurbishment works arranged for commencement 2024 the building would not be able to be used.</p>	<p>Available: No</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Contact to be made with the facilities manager in February 2024 to confirm if works are still on schedule to be started. If reburbishment is due to start after May 2024 the polling station will remain in use.</p> <p>If unavailable electors will be moved to the Education Development Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6YP on a temporary basis until referbishment</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
			is completed as there are no suitable alternative venues within the polling district.
Electoral Division: Woodhouse Close Polling District: BAGB - Woodhouse Close 1	Polling Station - Aclet Close Nursery School (1018), Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6PX	Given there are many other public buildings in the area, governors request that the school is not used as a polling station. Despite the fee paid to the school, income is from private paying families.	A review of the polling districts has been conducted and to avoid causing disruption to the school I recommend moving electors to the existing polling station at Auckland Youth and Community Centre (AYCC) and creating a double station. The AYCC is located outside the polling district in the adjacent BAGC polling district. The polling station is a central location for the residents in the current Woodhouse Close Division and no electoral boundary arrangements are affected.

CITY OF DURHAM CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
Electoral Division: Belmont Polling District: DDC - Pelaw (West)	Polling Station - St Joseph's RCVA Primary School (3489), Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Co Durham, DH1 2JQ	We are unable to act as a Polling Station until 2025 as we have no day left. Children need 190 teaching days each academic year. We would need this in advance.	A review of the area has been conducted. Durham Baptist Church was approached for the possible use as a polling station. The church could not accommodate us as a polling station due to long term booking. As there are no other alternative venues, I recommend that the school remains in use as a polling station.
Electoral Division: Deerness Polling District: DSA - Ushaw	Resident - Anonymous Durham Central Liberal Democrats - Edwin Simpson	St Lukes Mews is in D S B register, should be in D S A, St Lukes Church Hall polling station is right next door, but none postal voters have to go to Ushaw Moor Catholic Club to vote. Could you please change this to make it easier for residents to vote. St Lukes Mews in wrong register	St Lukes Mews has been allocated to an incorrect polling district. This will be corrected on publication of the revised register on 1 December.
Electoral Division: Framwellgate and Newton Hall Polling Districts: DAA2 - Newton Hall North DBA2 - Newton Hall South	Polling Station - Finchale Primary School (2748), Canterbury Road, Newton Hall, Co Durham, DH1 5XT	Would prefer not to be used if an alternative can be found	A review of both polling districts was conducted, as the area is primarily residential, no alternative could be found. I recommend Finchale Primary School remains as the polling station.
Electoral Division: Framwellgate and Newton Hall Polling District: DNA – Brasside	Clerk of - Framwellgate Moor Parish Council	Thank you for the opportunity to make representations on the future of electoral arrangements in the county. Framwellgate Moor Parish Council discussed the matter at its meeting on 11 October 2023. The view of the council is that, whilst there are no realistic alternatives	A review of the area has been conducted and no alternative venues are available. The Returning Officer has a communication plan to promote all voting methods including postal and proxy voting in the lead up to an election. Poll cards will also provide the necessary information and deadlines to apply for a postal vote or proxy vote. I recommend Newton Hall Community Centre remains as the polling station.

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
		<p>to what is proposed, it is hoped that Durham County Council will properly promote postal voting as a convenient alternative to going to a polling station. This is because many residents, in particular those of the village of Brasside, have to travel long distances to polling stations. This can become a disincentive to voting, especially for the elderly and those with restricted mobility, and the parish council is keen to see that all residents are able to have their voice heard.</p>	
<p>Electoral Division: Nevilles Cross Polling District: DCC1 - Crossgate Lower</p> <p>Electoral Division: Elvet and Gilesgate Polling District: DCD - Crossgate (Lower)</p>	<p>Polling Station - The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham, DH1 4DE</p>	<p>No Longer available.</p>	<p>Available: No</p> <p>A suitable alternative has been located at Waddington Street United Reform Church, 0.2 miles from The Spiritualist Church Hall, within the same polling district DCC1. The building is fully accessible, the main entrance on Mowbray Street has a small step, but a portable ramp is available, a doorbell is located at the entrance which can alert polling staff, if electors need assistance. The entrance from Waddington street accesses directly into the church and then requires the use of the wheelchair lift to gain access to the polling station. The building has a inducton loop system installed. Limited on street pay and display parking is available.</p> <p>The polling station room is large enough to accomodate a double station, which is required.</p> <p>I recommend using Waddington Street United Reform Church as the polling station for DCC1 and DCD.</p>
<p>Electoral Divison: Nevilles Cross Polling District: DFB - Nevilles Cross (South)</p>	<p>Resident -Trustee of Neville's Cross Community Association</p>	<p>The Hub, Durham University, The Aproach</p> <p>Last time there was a problem because the signage was poor, there</p>	<p>A review of the area has been conducted.</p> <p>Merryoaks Community Hall has been identified as an additional polling station for this polling district. The venue is a newly built community building on Park House Road, within the residential area of Merryoaks. The building is accessible, has the choice of a multipurpose room or large main hall,</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response																		
		<p>was nothing from the A167 at Mill Hill Lane. The assumption seemed to be that people would drive. Merryoaks Community Hall would be a much more accessible and convenient place, as well as being in the same park as the previous polling station.</p> <p>A long way to walk for a great number of the electorate</p>	<p>induction loop system installed and adequate parking facilities.</p> <p>I recommend introducing Merryoaks Community Hall as a second polling station to serve the electors in the surrounding area of the premises, which include Merryoaks, Lowe Banks Road, Potters Bank and the A167.</p> <p>The following streets in the Mount Oswald's area would be allocated to The Hub polling station.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Blaidwood Drive</td> <td>St Georges Way</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cedar Drive</td> <td>St Oswalds Drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chipchase Grove</td> <td>Sunningdale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fowler Wynd</td> <td>The Approach</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gleneagles Way</td> <td>The Drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muirfield</td> <td>Turnberry Walk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portrush Way</td> <td>Wentworth Drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richardby Crescent</td> <td>Wilkinson Walk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roundhaven</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This would provide for an approximate elector split of 900 to 1000 per station.</p>	Blaidwood Drive	St Georges Way	Cedar Drive	St Oswalds Drive	Chipchase Grove	Sunningdale	Fowler Wynd	The Approach	Gleneagles Way	The Drive	Muirfield	Turnberry Walk	Portrush Way	Wentworth Drive	Richardby Crescent	Wilkinson Walk	Roundhaven	
Blaidwood Drive	St Georges Way																				
Cedar Drive	St Oswalds Drive																				
Chipchase Grove	Sunningdale																				
Fowler Wynd	The Approach																				
Gleneagles Way	The Drive																				
Muirfield	Turnberry Walk																				
Portrush Way	Wentworth Drive																				
Richardby Crescent	Wilkinson Walk																				
Roundhaven																					
<p>Electoral Division: Sherburn Polling District: DKD2 - Sherburn Village</p>	<p>Polling Station - Attlee Square Communal Hall, Attlee Square, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1JN</p>	<p>Is under review and may close 2023.</p>	<p>Available: No</p> <p>DKD2 was previously created as a polling district for administration purposes to split DKD to accommodate the two polling stations in the area.</p> <p>I propose to move electors to the polling station in the DKD1 (Sherburn Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1HD) polling district, which is located near the villages' local amenities. The polling station is already a double station and by adding DKD2 each station would have 1247 electors each, including postal voters.</p> <p>Within the DKD2 polling district the only alternative is Sherburn Village Primary School, to avoid disruption to the school I recommend allocating the electors to the existing polling station at the Sherburn Community Centre.</p>																		

EASINGTON CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Deneside and Seaham</p> <p>Polling District: ERB1 – Seaham North No 1a ERB2 – Seaham North No 1b</p>	Believe Housing	Byron House is under review and likely to close this year so its use as a polling station cannot be guaranteed.	There are possible alternative premises in the polling district – two primary schools and Seaham Town Council offices. An inspection of the town council offices was carried out by electoral services staff who found that the premises offer suitable accommodation and appropriate access to be used as a polling station in the future. Due to these findings, no further investigation of the schools was made. Members from both divisions were contacted regarding this proposed change and asked for comments and suggestions. Councillor McKenna responded while the town council office is the best alternative, he had concerns regarding elderly residents without transport and their ability to travel to the new polling station, however, electoral staff explained that when a change to their polling station is decided, all electors will be notified by letter which will also provide information on how to apply for a postal or proxy vote.
<p>Electoral Division: Peterlee West</p> <p>Polling District: EDC – Passfield No 3</p>	East Durham College	A 26 week programme of refurbishment works starts in March 2024 in the area of the college that is currently used as a polling station. Our request has been passed to management for a decision about finding an alternative space in the premises	The Returning Officer has received confirmation that a suitable alternative room can be offered as a polling station.
<p>Electoral Division: Murton</p> <p>Polling District: EMA2 – Murton West No 1b EMB – Murton West No 2 EMC – Murton West No 3 RNB – Murton East No 1</p>	Ribbon Academy	Due to the layout of the school, it is not possible to separate the children from members of the public so due to safeguarding issues, the school needs to close on election day. Pupils therefore miss a day of education and well as it being disruptive to parents.	There are no other suitable premises in the polling district. The Returning Officer understands the concerns made by the school but as there is no alternative at the present time, has no other choice but to exercise his legal powers under the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) and continue to use the school as a polling station.
<p>Electoral Division: Dawdon</p> <p>Polling District:</p>	Ropery Walk Primary School	Due to the nature of the building and the requirement to keep children safe, when the school is used as a polling station, the whole school must close. This has a detrimental effect on the education of	There are no other suitable premises in the polling district. The Returning Officer understands the concerns made by the school but as there is no alternative at the present time, has no other choice but to exercise his legal powers under the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales)

EOC – Dawdon No 3		our school and has a times resulted in 4 days in 1 year.	Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) and continue to use the school as a polling station.
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NORTH DURHAM CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Sacriston</p> <p>Polling District: NDEB2 – Sacriston No 2b</p>	<p>Children & Young People’s Services, Durham County Council</p>	<p>Fyndoune Community College is no longer designated as a school and is currently occupied by three different provisions – a private nursery, an Alternative Provision Provider and by The Pines (which are part of the Education Health Needs Team at Durham County Council). The building is currently under review as to its viability to remain open with all occupants receiving notice of termination of lease. It can therefore not be confirmed if the building can be used as a polling station</p>	<p>The only other premises in the polling district is Sacriston Academy, but the Returning Officer, where possible does not want to introduce the use of a new school. Schools are only used if there is no other alternative premises. Following the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review in 2019, the polling district NDEB – Sacriston was divided three ways to reflect the current elector allocation to the three polling stations in the village, which included Fyndoune Community College. It is now proposed to move the electors to the existing polling station at the Salvation Army Hall. Local members have been contacted and both raised concerns regarding the distance to the proposed new station for residents with mobility issues. Councillor Wilson asked if there was a possibility of there being a temporary voting station. Mobile units are no longer an option as they do not provide the necessary disabled access and privacy to facilitate Voter ID as required by the Elections Act 2022. Electors whose polling station is changed will all be contacted to advise them of the change and to offer the option of postal or proxy voting if they have difficulty getting to the new location.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Chester le Street South</p> <p>Polling District: NDJA – Chester South</p>	<p>Newker Primary School</p>	<p>The school is concerned that it will have to close in order for it to be used as a polling station. It had to close due to Covid and during recent strikes</p>	<p>The school was used for the first time in 2021 due to mobile units not being available for hire – two units had historically been sited on the Garden Farm Shop car park. This polling district is a highly populated area with no community buildings. A possible alternative suggested in the past by a local member was the Garden Farm Pub. A member of electoral services contacted the premises and was informed by the manager that the brewery will not allow her to hire out the premises for election purposes. Mobile units can no longer be used as polling places because they are not big enough to accommodate the extra equipment (e.g. privacy screens) required under the Elections Act 2022. There are no other suitable premises in the polling district. The Returning Officer understands the concerns made by the school but as there is no alternative at the present time, has no other choice but to exercise his legal powers under the Local</p>

			Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) and continue to use the school as a polling station.
<p>Electoral Division: Pelton</p> <p>Polling District: NDNB – Pelton No 3 NDNC – Pelton No 4 NDND – Pelton No 5</p>	Roseberry Primary and Nursery School	The school would prefer not to be used as a polling station as it means that it has to close the nursery unit which is a huge inconvenience to both the school and parents, especially those who pay for their sessions. The school also has to make someone available out of hours to open and lock up.	There are no other suitable premises in the polling district. The Returning Officer understands the concerns made by the school but as there is no alternative at the present time, has no other choice but to exercise his legal powers under the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) and continue to use the school as a polling station.
<p>Electoral Division: Tanfield</p> <p>Polling District: NDSC – Shield Row</p>	Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Durham County Council	Shield Row Community House is currently closed but may be transferred and reopen if any local community groups express an interest in taking over the premises.	There are two possible alternative premises in the polling district and are situated in the same building – Stanley Education Centre and Shield Row Primary School. A visit was made to both premises to assess which was suitable. Shield Row Primary as a large hall available but as this is used for school lunches would mean the school would have to close. Stanley Education Centre has a large room available (Lanchester Suite), however, at present, the whole of the premises including this room are accommodating children from St Bennet School Ouston due to building work taking place at the school due to RACC. As this is a temporary measure, it is proposed that Stanley Education Centre is used in the future as the polling station. If the school is still using the premises in May 2024 it would mean that classes could not take place on election day but all being well, once they return to their own building, they will not be affected. Local members were contacted regarding this proposed change and both Councillor Binney and Charlton agreed that this was the best option.

NORTH WEST DURHAM CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Consett South</p> <p>Polling District: NWDIC – Berry Edge West</p>	Resident	A comment was received via the online consultation form about the distance to walk to the polling station at the Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett for electors	<p>This polling station is part of Consett South Electoral Division and is a large area containing housing and some industrial and retail premises – there are no community buildings in this area so the electors have to travel to a polling station in an adjoining polling district. There are 3 possible stations that they could be allocated to :</p> <p>Masonic Hall, Blackhill The Grove Methodist Church Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett</p> <p>It was decided that the Gospel Hall was the best option as it is located in the town where electors are more likely to travel to for local amenities and is reachable by bus links for those who do not have their own transport. No change is recommended.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Weardale</p> <p>Polling District: NWDPD - Wearhead</p>	Councillor John Shuttleworth	Councillor Shuttleworth asked if we could reconsider using Wearhead Village Hall as the polling station instead of Wearhead Primary School. The polling station was moved to the school at the last review as the village hall does not have disabled access and complaints had been received from an elector regarding this.	Electoral Services staff visited the premises and the access has not changed – there are still numerous steps into the main door at the front of the building and there are also steps into the side access. As the building does not offer any disabled access, it is appropriate that the polling station remain at the school.
<p>Electoral Division: Tow Law</p> <p>Polling District: NWDSC – Billy Row</p>	Believe Housing	The Communal Room at Stanley Way, Billy Row is under review and likely to close this year so its use as a polling station cannot be guaranteed.	<p>The polling district had been reviewed and these are the options available in the area for a polling station in the future:</p> <p>Billy Row Club – not appropriate as it does not have disabled access Peases West Primary School – while this school is located centrally in the village, the Returning Officer, where possible does not want to introduce the use of a new school. Schools are only used if it is necessary to do so, as they likely need to close to accommodate the provision of a polling station for safeguarding.</p> <p>The only other option is to move the electors to one of the existing polling stations in adjoining polling districts: Stanley Village Community Hall Crook Community Leisure, Peases West Sports Centre</p> <p>The more suitable option is Peases West Sports Centre as this has the lower number of voters currently allocated to it and can therefore accommodate extra electors and residents</p>

			<p>of Billy Row may be more likely to travel past these premises to go into Crook for local amenities and services than to Stanley, Crook.</p> <p>Recommended that Peases West Sports Centre be used as the polling station for electors from the polling district NWDSC – Billy Row.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Burnopfield And Dipton</p> <p>Polling District: NWDAB – Burnopfield NWDAC - Crookgate</p>	Returning Officer	<p>Burnopfield Ambulance Station is the current polling station for this polling district, however, after an initial verbal agreement, Electoral Services staff have been unable to gain any further agreement or contact details from the association.</p>	<p>Historically, the Masonic Hall and Burnopfield Methodist Church have both at one time, been used as a polling station. The Masonic Hall is currently up for sale so its future is unknown and the Returning Officer has been informed that the church is not available. As no confirmation can be received from the Ambulance Station, it is necessary that new premises are found to locate the polling station. Contact has been made with Burnopfield Victory Club which is located in the same area. An inspection of the Club has been carried out and it is a suitable venue for use as a polling station. Recommended that Burnhopefield Victory Club be used as the polling station for the polling districts NWDAB and NWDAC.</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Consett North</p> <p>Polling District: NWDGB – Villa Real</p>	Villa Real School	<p>The headteacher commented that the school normally remains open and allows us the use of a classroom at the front of the building that we can have access to without disrupting the rest of the school. The pupils from this class are moved elsewhere in the school on election day. However, the school is currently very overcrowded so there is no other space available to move these children so they would have to be moved off site or the school close all together.</p>	<p>There are no other suitable premises in the polling district. The only other option would be to move the electors to the existing polling station located at Consett Leisure Centre which is the adjoining polling district. The Returning Officer understands the concerns made by the school but as there is no alternative at the present time, has no other choice but to exercise his legal powers under the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) and continue to use the school as a polling station.</p>

SEDGEFIELD CONSTITUENCY

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
<p>Electoral Division: Aycliffe East Polling District: SIA1 - Shafto St Marys</p>	<p>Polling Station - Sugar Hill Infants School (2743), Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 5NU</p>	<p>We currently use a kitchen area in the infant building of which voters will access through the infant staff car park and into a side door. This door does not have ramp access. Voters are not able to park in this car park.</p> <p>At the moment we are able to use an area in the infant building for voters to access, without the disruption of closing down any departments, resulting in children not attending school.</p> <p>In January 2024 we will be at the beginning of our new build process. During this time, site vehicles will be accessing the building to the construction site throughout the day, which may cause disruption to voters trying to access the building.</p> <p>Once the new building is complete (estimated approx. one year) we will not have any available areas to use as a polling station due to the layout of the building. We will not have two separate buildings as we do now.</p> <p>We do not feel that closing a building for the use of a polling station would be acceptable to parents and pupils due to attendance requirements and parent's working commitments. Closing down departments to accommodate a polling station is detrimental to pupil's attendance, especially in the current climate and the aftermath of the past few years due to COVID 19 etc. We do hope this could be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>A review of the polling district has been conducted. As the area is primarily residential no alternative venues are available.</p> <p>I must recommend continued use of the school as a a polling station.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to determine whether the school can remain open whilst being used as a polling station. The Head Teacher will have appropriate regard to safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Use of Schools legislation: The Representation of the People Act, 1983, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22</p>
<p>Electoral Division: Aycliffe West Polling District:</p>	<p>Polling Station - Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School,</p>	<p>Lower site, (nursery / KS1) is accessible but is not able to be kept separate as solely nursery, meaning all Lower site</p>	<p>A review of the polling district was conducted for a by-election held in May 2023. The Phoenix Club was approached as an alteranative venue. The only room available</p>

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
SFD - West No. 4	Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7DD	need to be closed for safeguarding purposes. As a result, this would impact negatively upon KS2 attendance as parents would not bring children from the same family to KS2, if EY's /KS1 were to be closed for polling.	for use was on the 1 st floor. The room was open plan with an adjacent restaurant used by the public. As such the room was not suitable for use as a polling station as the the secrecy of the vote could not be maintained. I continue to recommend use of the Lower site of Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery school as a polling station.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Polling Station - Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre, Lambton Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8TB	Being used to house secondary school until 19th December due to raac, but still available. Has disabled access.	Will be available for future elections and recommend Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre remains as a polling station.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	Labour Councillors and a relative of a Councillor work at the centre creating bias. Alternative station could be Ferryhill station wmc which is 100 yards as the crow flies, Broom Cottages primary school as they share DCC offices	Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre, Lambton Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8TB polling station is accessible for both polling districts SBA and SBB. The venue has been used for many years and is a constant and familiar polling station venue for the electorate.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Jean Bell	County and Parish Councillors manage/work at the centre. I feel the using this building has an unfair advantage over other candidates in elections. As a lot of groups organisations use this building and come into contact with these two councillors in their day-to-day roles at this venue. So, I would like a more neutral place where people can vote. I feel they might have an unfair advantage over other candidates who are not in the same position as they are. So, I would like another suitable venue used.	The Polling station is a double station which requires an adequately sized room, which the venue provides. The venue has allocated disabled parking and adequately sized car park for a station with a large electorate. The Workingman's Club does not provide adequate parking for electors. On street parking is not available due to a busy main road. Where there is suitable venue within the area we would not recommend moving to a school.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts:- SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	Resident believes that the polling station is Managed and run by a political party and this influences people and it's unfair. The polling station room is just off the bar where relations to politicians work. Plenty of clubs DCC and schools nearby	Councillors both at County and Parish level have links to many community buildings within the Durham County area. It would not be reasonable to disregard suitable buildings for these reasons. All candidates and agents are made aware of the Code of Conduct of for Campaigners on polling day. Campaigning is

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	Resident believes that the polling station is run by members of a political party which means that voting cannot possibly be fair and voters can be swayed. It needs to be somewhere else and at a neutral position so that elections do not have interference.	not allowed inside a polling place; however, campaigning (by all candidates) is allowed in public space around a polling place. The Presiding Officer and Polling Station Inspector will ensure that no campaigning takes place within the polling station. Undue influence is an offence under the Elections Act 2022. If an elector believes this is taking place, it can be reported directly to the Police.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	Not very good for wheelchair users yes it has a ramp but very steep plus mayor of Ferryhill and family run this if they run the station for free that's ok but if they are paid it's a bit to close to home	The polling station is not run by members of any political party – polling stations are run and managed through the arrangements put in place by the Returning Officer which are non-political.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	Some staff at this location are Councillors and this is also has a bar where said Councillors could influence peoples votes - and it seems that this is not a good idea as polling stations should be seen to be unbiased.	The venue has been contacted regarding the bar area. It is not possible for the bar area to be closed on polling day. The Cleves Ferry Suite is currently use as the polling station room and is a separate room from the bar area, therefore maintaining the secrecy of the vote. The route to the polling station does not require an elector to walk through the bar area as the Cleves Ferry Suite has its own entrance from reception.
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling Districts: SBA - Broom No. 1 SBB - Broom No. 2	Resident - Anonymous	This polling station is in a building that has councillors and close family members working in it. They also socialise in it and could influence peoples views who use the facilities and also would vote here. The polling station should be in a totally independent place. We used to vote in Cleves Cross our local primary school before the polling station was moved to the sports and education centre. This would seem to be a much more suitable place as it would be totally independent.	<p>Alternatively, the dance studio can be used but is at the rear of the building and would require electors to be directed to the room. The current room is more accessible as it is near the main entrance.</p> <p>I therefore recommend that Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre, Lambton Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8TB remains as the polling station for both polling districts.</p>
Electoral Division: Ferryhill Polling District: SDC1 - Ferryhill Station	Polling Station - Royal British Legion Club, Back Linden Terrace, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0DQ	Closed and is up for sale	Available: No Response: The polling district of SDC1 was created for administration purposes to split SCD between two polling stations in the area.

Electoral Division/Polling District	Comment Received From	Comment	Returning Officer Response
			<p>As a result of the closure of the Royal British Legion Club I propose to move the electors from SDC1 to the polling station for SDC2 Mainsforth Community Association, High Street, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0AG. which is 0.8 miles from the Royal British Legion Club. The total electorate once combined would be 629 which is well within the recommended electorate per polling station set by the Electoral Commission. Should this recommendation be accepted, I will write to all affected electors notifying them of the change and offering them either a postal or proxy vote should the new venue be inconvenient for their use.</p> <p>I have also considered Ferryhill Station Primary school for use as a polling station as it lies within the polling district SDC1. However, I do not recommend this because of the disruption it would cause to education. Wherever possible we try to avoid using schools as polling stations, although in some areas this is unavoidable.</p>

Appendix 3 – Summary of proposed changes to polling arrangements and issues to be kept under review.

Summary of proposed changes

Following an extensive consultation process with a wide range of consultees, a number of changes to polling stations have been proposed and are summarised below. The tables show the existing polling arrangements in each polling district:

the polling district identity letters & description
 the polling place and polling station affected
 the (Acting) Returning Officer's Final Proposal

Following the review where changes in polling station are agreed all electors will be written to and advised of the change. We will take that opportunity to also promote the availability of postal and proxy voting.

No.	Polling District	Polling Place/ Polling Station Affected	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
1	BAAFA2 – Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange 1A	King Street Primary School (2750), Hub Room, High Grange Road, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RA	Alternative premises to use of the school have been located. Two new polling stations are proposed:- The Neil Adams Sports Bar, Spennymoor Football Club, Club Wood View, Spennymoor, DL16 6JN And an additional polling station O'Hehir School of Irish Dance, Barnfield Road, Spennymoor, DL16 6EA

2	BAGB- Woodhouse Close 1	Aclet Close Nursery School (1018), Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6PX	Electors from this polling district will be moved to the polling station at Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Walker Drive, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6QL. Although this crosses a polling district boundary it has no impact on the electoral areas electors vote for.
3	DCD - Crossgate (Lower) DCC1 – Crossgate (Lower)	The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham, DH1 4DE	The Spiritualist Church Hall is no longer available – the proposal is to move electors to Waddington Street United Reform Church, Waddington Street, Durham, DH1 4BG
4	DFB – Nevilles Cross South	The Hub, Durham University, The Approach, Durham, DH1 3FP	Proposing an additional polling station in this polling district at Merryoaks Community Hall, Park House Road, Durham, DH1 3QF for the convenience of those electors who currently have to cross the A167 to access The Hub.
5	DKD2 – Sherburn Village	Attlee Square Communal Hall, Attlee Square, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1JN	Attlee Square Communal Hall is no longer available, electors will be moved to the existing polling station at Sherburn Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village, DH6 1HD
6	ERB1 – Seaham North No 1a	Byron House, Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 0JY	Byron House is no longer available – a new venue has been found within the offices of Seaham Town Council, Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham, SR7 0HP

7	NDEB2 – Sacriston No 2b	Fyndoune Community College (6500), The Durham Federation, Main School Building, Findon Hill, Sacriston, Co Durham, DH7 6LU	As Fyndoune Community College is no longer available a new polling station is required – it is recommended that the electors from polling district NDEB2 are moved to the existing polling station at the Salvation Army Church (Sacriston), Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, DH7 6PE
8	NDSC – Shield Row	Shield Row Community House, Shield Row Gardens, Shield row, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8RF	As Shield Row Community House is no longer available a new polling station is required – Stanley Education Centre, King Edward VIII Terrace, Shield Row, DH9 0HQ is recommended.
9	NWDSC – Billy Row	Communal Room (Billy Row), Stanley Way, Billy Row, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9TF	As the Communal Room (Billy Row) is no longer available a new polling station is required – it is recommended that the electors from polling district NWDSC are moved to Peases West Sports Centre, Crook, DH15 9AH
10	NWDAB – Burnopfield NWDAC - Crookgate	Burnopfield Ambulance Station, Lilac Crescent, Burnhopefield, NE16 6PT	As it has proved to be impossible to obtain a response from Burnopfield Ambulance Station it is recommended that the polling station move to the Burnhopfield Victory Club, Dene View, Burnhopefield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE16 6QA
11	SDC1 – Ferryhill Station	Royal British Legion Club, Back Linden Terrace, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0DQ	The Royal British Legion Club is no longer available due to closure – I propose to move electors to the existing polling station at Mainsforth Community Association, High Street, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0AG

Premises to be kept under review

No.	Polling Districts Affected	Premises to be reviewed
1	Various	All Schools used as polling places
2	BACB – Coundon Gate BACC - Coundon BACF - Westerton	Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane, Coundon, DL14 8NN – efforts are ongoing to find an alternative location in the area. The recommendation will be to retain the Nursery as the polling place for this area and if a suitable alternative location is found an adhoc review and consultation will be conducted.

Appendix 4: Final proposed polling arrangements for each Parliamentary constituency

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations



Final Proposal for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: Bishop Auckland

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
BAAAA	BAAAA - Ingleton	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	366	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAB	BAAAB - Headlam	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	31	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAC	BAAAC - Langton	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	30	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAD	BAAAD - Bolam	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	71	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAE	BAAAE - Morton Tinmouth	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	11	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAF	BAAAF - Hilton	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	35	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAAG	BAAAG - Wackerfield	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ingleton Village Hall, Front Street, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3HL	41	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARA	BARA - Brignall	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9RN	42	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARB	BARB - Rokeby	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9RN	59	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARD	BARD - Egglestone Abbey	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9RN	7	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASA	BASA - Barningham	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Barningham Village Hall, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7DW	128	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
BASB	BASB - Ovington	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ovington Village Hall, Ovington, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7BP	119	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASC	BASC - Barforth	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ovington Village Hall, Ovington, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7BP	55	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASD	BASD - Hutton Magna	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ovington Village Hall, Ovington, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7BP	91	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASE	BASE - Wycliffe with Thorpe	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Ovington Village Hall, Ovington, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7BP	86	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASF	BASF - Hope	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Barningham Village Hall, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7DW	13	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BASG	BASG - Scargill	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Barningham Village Hall, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7DW	30	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAUA	BAUA - Barnard Castle East	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Barnard Castle Library, Hall Street, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8JB	1289	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAVA2	BAVA2 - Barnard Castle East	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Teesdale Leisure Centre, Strathmore Road, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8DS	732	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAVB	BAVB - Marwood Urban	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Teesdale Leisure Centre, Strathmore Road, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8DS	367	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAXA	BAXA - Westwick	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Whorlton Village Hall, Whorlton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8XQ	49	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAXB	BAXB - Stainton	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Stainton & Streatlam Village Hall, Stainton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8RB	248	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAXB1	BAXB1 - Stainton South	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Stainton & Streatlam Village Hall, Stainton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8RB	124	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAXC	BAXC - The Oval	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Stainton & Streatlam Village Hall, Stainton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8RB	95	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAXD	BAXD - Whorlton	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Whorlton Village Hall, Whorlton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8XQ	157	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAYA	BAYA - Staindrop	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Scarth Memorial Village Hall, 5 The Green, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3LD	987	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAYB	BAYB - Cleatlam	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Scarth Memorial Village Hall, 5 The Green, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3LD	74	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAYC	BAYC - Raby	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Scarth Memorial Village Hall, 5 The Green, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3LD	51	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAYD	BAYD - Langleydale	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Scarth Memorial Village Hall, 5 The Green, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3LD	62	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAZA	BAZA - Gainford	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Gainford Village Hall, Main Road, Gainford, Darlington, DL2 3DY	1033	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAZB	BAZB - Winston	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Winston Village Hall, Front Street, Winston, Darlington, Co Durham, DL2 3RJ	280	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAZC	BAZC - South Cleatlam	Barnard Castle East	Bishop Auckland	Winston Village Hall, Front Street, Winston, Darlington, Co Durham, DL2 3RJ	61	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BANA	BANA - Eggleston	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Eggleston Village Hall, Eggleston, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0AL	357	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BANB	BANB - Marwood Rural	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Marwood Social Centre, Marwood, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8SH	173	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAOA	BAOA - Forest	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Langdon Beck Hotel, Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0XP	125	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAOB	BAOB - Middleton-In-Teesdale	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Middleton in Teesdale Nursery and Primary School, Town End, Middleton in Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0TG	896	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAOC	BAOC - Newbiggin	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Newbiggin & District Village Hall, Newbiggin in Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0TX	109	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAPA	BAPA - Romaldkirk	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Reading Room, Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9ED	151	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAPB	BAPB - Hunderthwaite	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Reading Room, Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9ED	87	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAPC	BAPC - Holwick	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0JR	61	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAPD	BAPD - Lunedale	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0JR	75	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAPE	BAPE - Mickleton	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0JR	345	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAQA	BAQA - Cotherstone	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Cotherstone Village Hall, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle , Co Durham, DL12 9PH	454	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAQB	BAQB - Briscoe	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Cotherstone Village Hall, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle , Co Durham, DL12 9PH	46	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAQC	BAQC - Lartington	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Cotherstone Village Hall, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle , Co Durham, DL12 9PH	121	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARC	BARC - Boldron	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9RN	94	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARE	BARE - Bowes	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Bowes & Gilmonby Village Hall, Bowes, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9HU	344	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BARF	BARF - Gilmonby	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Bowes & Gilmonby Village Hall, Bowes, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9HU	28	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BATA	BATA - Startforth	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Startforth Morrith Memorial Community Centre, High Startforth, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9AQ	968	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAVA1	BAVA1 - Barnard Castle West	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Methodist Hall (Scar Top), Scar Top, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8PW	303	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAWA1	BAWA1 - Barnard Castle West	Barnard Castle West	Bishop Auckland	Methodist Hall (Scar Top), Scar Top, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8PW	1857	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAA	BAAA - Central 1	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	Elim Pentecostal Church, Gibbon Street, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7DL	435	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAB	BAAB - Central 2	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	The Scout Centre, Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7JN	1347	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAAC	BAAC - Bishop Town	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Market Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7NP	422	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAD	BAAD - Toronto	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Market Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7NP	427	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BABA	BABA - Central 3	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	Elim Pentecostal Church, Gibbon Street, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7DL	849	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BABB	BABB - Central 4	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	Baptist Church Hall, Westfield Road Entrance, Cockton Hill, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6AE	1012	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BABC	BABC - Central 5	Bishop Auckland Town	Bishop Auckland	St Annes CE Primary School (3123), Warwick Road, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6LS	1604	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BACA	BACA - Leeholme	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Coundon & Leeholme Community Centre, Welfare Hall, Leeholme Road, Leeholme, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8HN	534	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BACB	BACB - Coundon Gate	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8NN	193	No change – the polling station is considered acceptable
BACC	BACC - Coundon	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8NN	1811	No change – the polling station is considered acceptable
BACD	BACD - Leasingthorne Colliery	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Coundon & Leeholme Community Centre, Welfare Hall, Leeholme Road, Leeholme, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8HN	91	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BACE	BACE - Binchester	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Binchester Community Centre, Peel Street, Binchester, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8AS	213	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BACF	BACF - Westerton	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8NN	76	No change – the polling station is considered acceptable.
BACG	BACG - Newfield	Coundon	Bishop Auckland	Queens Head Inn, Primrose Hill, Newfield, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8BQ	227	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAIA	BAIA - Etherley (West Auckland)	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	West Auckland Memorial Hall, Games Room, Darlington Road, West Auckland, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9HT	276	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAIB	BAIB - Etherley & Toft Hill	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Toft Hill/ Etherley Community Centre, Toft Hill, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 0JB	1370	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAIC	BAIC - Witton	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Toft Hill/ Etherley Community Centre, Toft Hill, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 0JB	193	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAJA	BAJA - Toft Hill	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Ramshaw Primary School (2409), Oaks Bank, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9SD	47	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAJB	BAJB - Evenwood	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	St Paul's Church Hall, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9RN	1239	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAJC	BAJC - Ramshaw	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Ramshaw Primary School (2409), Oaks Bank, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9SD	191	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAJD	BAJD - Lands	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Lands Village Hall, Lands Bank, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 5AR	162	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAKA	BAKA - Cockfield	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Lipscomb Hall, School Square, Cockfield, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 5DL	1202	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BALA	BALA - Butterknowle	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Butterknowle Village Hall, Front Street, Butterknowle, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 5PP	601	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BALB	BALB - Copley	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Copley Village Hall, Copley, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 5NA	397	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BALC	BALC - Woodland	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Woodland Village Hall, Woodland, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 5RF	195	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAMA	BAMA - Hamsterley	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Hamsterley Village Hall, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 3PZ	372	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAMB	BAMB - South Bedburn	Evenwood	Bishop Auckland	Hamsterley Village Hall, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 3PZ	151	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAHB	BAAHB - Merrington	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Kirk Merrington Community Centre, Front Street, Kirk Merrington, Co Durham, DL16 7HZ	1209	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAABA	BAABA - Byerley 1	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	West Close, Supported Housing, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 1LE	391	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAABB	BAABB - Byerley 2	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Harrison Close, Grouped Accommodation, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 2LN	619	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAABC	BAABC - Byerley 3	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Shildon Masonic Hall, Middleton Road, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 1NJ	212	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAABD	BAABD - Byerley 4	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Shildon Masonic Hall, Middleton Road, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 1NJ	1209	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAACA	BAACA - Sunnydale 1	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Middridge Lane, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 2EP	803	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAACB1	BAACB1 - Sunnydale 2	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Garbutt Close Supported Housing, Garbutt Close, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 1AS	780	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAACB2	BAACB2 - Sunnydale 2A	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Shildon Civic Hall, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 1AH	499	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAACC	BAACC - Eldon	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Eldon Community Centre, Main Road, Eldon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8XB	263	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAADA	BAADA - Thickley 1	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Jubilee Road, Shildon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL4 2AL	2333	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAADB	BAADB - Thickley 2	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Harrison Close, Grouped Accommodation, Shildon, Co Durham, DL4 2LN	325	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADA	BADA - South Church	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	St Andrews Primary School (), St Andrews Road, South Church, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6RY	229	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADB	BADB - South Church	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	St Andrews Primary School (), St Andrews Road, South Church, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6RY	287	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADC	BADC - Eldon Lane	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8TD	310	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADD	BADD - Auckland Park	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	St Andrews Primary School (), St Andrews Road, South Church, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6RY	831	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADE	BADE - Coundon Grange	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Dene Valley Methodist Church (Coundon Grange), Community Room, Coundon Grange, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8UB	318	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BADF	BADF - Close House	Shildon and Dene Valley	Bishop Auckland	Dene Valley Methodist Church (Coundon Grange), Community Room, Coundon Grange, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 8UB	189	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAAFC	BAAFC - Spennymoor 3	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Oxclose Nursery School (1021), Ox Close Crescent, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RU	775	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAGA1	BAAGA1 - Spennymoor 1	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6DG	368	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAGA2	BAAGA2 - Spennymoor 1A	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Oxclose Nursery School (1021), Ox Close Crescent, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RU	1286	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAGB	BAAGB - Spennymoor 2	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	St Pauls Centre Ltd, St Paul's Gardens, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 7LR	2984	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAHA	BAAHA - Middlestone	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Middlestone Moor Community Centre, Albion Street, Middlestone Moor, Co Durham, DL16 7AP	2896	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAHC	BAAHC - Byers Green	Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Byers Green Village Hall, High Street, Byers Green, Co Durham, DL16 7PQ	638	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAEA1	BAAEA1 - Tudhoe 1	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	St Davids Church Hall, Tudhoe Lane, Tudhoe Village, Co Durham, DL16 6LL	646	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAEA2	BAAEA2 - Tudhoe 1A	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Tudhoe Community Centre, St David's Close, Tudhoe, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6TA	1077	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAEB1	BAAEB1 - Tudhoe 2	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Meeting Room 5, Durham County Council Offices, Green Lane, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6JQ	856	No change – the polling station is to be kept under review.
BAAEB2	BAAEB2 - Durhamgate	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Education Development Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6YP	997	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAFA1	BAAFA1 - Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 1	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Hartley Terrace, Supported Housing, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6DU	939	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAAFA2	BAAFA2 - Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 1A	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	King Street Primary School (2750), Hub Room, High Grange Road, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6RA	1441	Alterative locations found. Two new polling station are proposed: - "The Neil Adams Sports Bar" Spennymoor Football Club Wood Vue, Spennymoor DL16 6JN. And an additional polling station for the convenience

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						of the electors and to comply with the allocation of electors in accordance with Electoral Commission guidance O'Hehir School of Irish Dance, Barnfield Road, Spennymoor, DL16 6EA
BAAFB	BAAFB - Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 2	Tudhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Spennymoor Youth & Community Centre, Rushmoor, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6PP	1052	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAFA	BAFA - Witton Park	West Auckland	Bishop Auckland	Witton Park Village Hall, 20 Main Street, Witton Park, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 0DX	473	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAFB	BAFB - Escomb	West Auckland	Bishop Auckland	Escomb Village Hall, High Escomb, Escomb, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7ST	2002	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAHA	BAHA - St Helen Auckland	West Auckland	Bishop Auckland	St Helens Auckland Parish Centre, St Helen Auckland, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9EN	2267	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAHB	BAHB - West Auckland 1	West Auckland	Bishop Auckland	West Auckland Memorial Hall, Games Room, Darlington Road, West Auckland, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9HT	942	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAHC	BAHC - West Auckland 2	West Auckland	Bishop Auckland	West Auckland Memorial Hall, Games Room, Darlington Road, West Auckland, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9HT	866	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAEA	BAEA - St Andrews	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Henknowle Community Association, Cumbria Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6TJ	166	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAEB	BAEB - South Church	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Henknowle Community Association, Cumbria Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6TJ	758	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAEC	BAEC - Central 6	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Cockton Hill Infant School (2434), McIntyre Terrace, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6HW	1068	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAED	BAED - Central 7	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Cockton Hill Infant School (2434), McIntyre Terrace, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6HW	803	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAGA	BAGA - Tindale Crescent	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Woodhouse Community Primary School (3523), (Foundation Unit), Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6QW	259	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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BAGB	BAGB - Woodhouse Close 1	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Aclet Close Nursery School (1018), Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6PX	880	To avoid causing disruption to the school I propose to move to Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6QL polling station.
BAGC	BAGC - Woodhouse Close 2	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6QL	567	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
BAGD	BAGD - Woodhouse Close 3	Woodhouse Close	Bishop Auckland	Woodhouse Community Primary School (3523), (Foundation Unit), Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6QW	1380	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Final Proposal for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: City of Durham



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DDA	DDA - Gilesgate	Belmont	City of Durham	Durham Gilesgate Primary School (2747), Communal Room, Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1PH	975	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DDB1	DDB1 - Gilesgate (West)	Belmont	City of Durham	Durham Gilesgate Primary School (2747), Communal Room, Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1PH	424	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DDC	DDC - Pelaw (West)	Belmont	City of Durham	St Joseph's RCVA Primary School (3489), Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Co Durham, DH1 2JQ	476	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DDD	DDD - Pelaw (South)	Belmont	City of Durham	Laurel Avenue Community Association, Adjacent Laurel Avenue Primary School, Laurel Avenue, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 2EY	513	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DDE	DDE - Pelaw (East)	Belmont	City of Durham	Pelaw View Centre, Hilda Avenue, Sherburn Road Estate, Co Durham, DH1 2EH	462	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DOA	DOA - Belmont	Belmont	City of Durham	Belmont Library (Childrens Area), Cheveley Park Shopping Centre, Belmont, Durham, DH1 2AA	2731	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DPA	DPA - Carrville	Belmont	City of Durham	Carrville Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Carrville, Co Durham, DH1 1BQ	1952	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DPB	DPB - Gilesgate Moor	Belmont	City of Durham	Durham Gilesgate Primary School (2747), Communal Room, Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1PH	2147	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DQB	DQB - Langley Moor	Brandon	City of Durham	Langley Moor Nursery School (1025), Langley Moor, Co Durham, DH7 8LL	1291	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DQC	DQC - Meadowfield	Brandon	City of Durham	St Johns Hall, John Street South, Meadowfield, Durham, DH7 8RP	2020	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DRA1	DRA1 - Brandon	Brandon	City of Durham	Murray Independent Methodist Church, Grove Road, Brandon, Durham, DH7 8AR	2142	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DRA2	DRA2 - Brandon	Brandon	City of Durham	St Andrews Methodist Church (Brandon), Carr Avenue, Brandon, Co Durham, DH7 8QG	2124	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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DHA	DHA - Quarrington Hill	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Quarrington Hill Community Centre, Front Street South, Quarrington Hill, Co Durham, DH6 4QN	530	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DHB	DHB - East Hetton	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Kelloe Primary School (2374), Front Street, Kelloe, Co Durham, DH6 4PG	694	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DHC	DHC - Kelloe	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Kelloe Primary School (2374), Front Street, Kelloe, Co Durham, DH6 4PG	366	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DHD	DHD - Cornforth Lane	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Coxhoe Leisure Centre (Squash Court), Linden Grove, Coxhoe, Co Durham, DH6 4DW	523	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DHE	DHE - Coxhoe	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street, Coxhoe, Co Durham, DH6 4DB	2452	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIA	DIA - Cassop	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Cassop Community Centre, Front Street, Cassop, Co Durham, DH6 4RF	374	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIB	DIB - Bowburn (South)	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street, Coxhoe, Co Durham, DH6 4DB	868	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIC	DIC - Tursdale	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Coxhoe Leisure Centre (Squash Court), Linden Grove, Coxhoe, Co Durham, DH6 4DW	41	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DID	DID - Bowburn (North)	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5DS	2875	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIE	DIE - Bowburn (Central)	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5AT	791	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIF	DIF - Croxdale	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Croxdale Communal Hall, Rear Rogerson Terrace, Croxdale, Co Durham, DH6 5HL	503	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DIG	DIG - Hett	Coxhoe	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Hett Village Hall, Hett Village, Durham, DH6 5LS	182	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DMA	DMA - Bearpark	Deerness	City of Durham	Beaurepaire Community Hub, 16 Beaurepaire, Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7DZ	1564	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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	DSA	DSA - Ushaw	Deerness	City of Durham	St Lukes Church Hall, Ushaw Moor, Co Durham, DH7 7PW	959	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DSB	DSB - Ushaw Moor	Deerness	City of Durham	Ushaw Moor Catholic Club, Off Broom Lane, Ushaw Moor, Co Durham, DH7 7LF	1545	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DSC	DSC - Broompark	Deerness	City of Durham	Downstairs Activity Room, Deerness Gymnastics Academy, Old Sports Centre, Valley View, Ushaw Moor, Co Durham, DH7 7LS	928	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DSD	DSD - New Brancepeth	Deerness	City of Durham	New Brancepeth Village Hall, Rock Terrace, New Brancepeth, Co Durham, DH7 7EP	958	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DTA	DTA - Esh Winning	Deerness	City of Durham	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RCVA Primary (3483), JB Community Room, Off Burnell Road, Esh Winning, Co Durham, DH7 9PA	1193	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DTB	DTB - Waterhouses No 1	Deerness	City of Durham	Esh Winning Primary School (2497), The Library, The Wynds, Esh Winning, Co Durham, DH7 9BE	1176	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DTC	DTC - Waterhouses No 2	Deerness	City of Durham	Waterhouses Village Hall, Station Street, Waterhouses, Co Durham, DH7 9AS	348	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DGA3	DGA3 - The Howlands	Durham South	City of Durham	St Oswalds Institute, Church Street, Co Durham, DH1 3DQ	38	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DGB	DGB - Elvet (South)	Durham South	City of Durham	St Oswalds Institute, Church Street, Co Durham, DH1 3DQ	47	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DLA	DLA - Shincliffe	Durham South	City of Durham	St Mary's Church Hall, High Street North, Shincliffe, Durham, DH1 2NU	289	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DLB	DLB - High Shincliffe	Durham South	City of Durham	The Avenue, Avenue Street, High Shincliffe, Durham, DH1 2PT	911	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DLC	DLC - Sherburn/Whitwell House	Durham South	City of Durham	The Avenue, Avenue Street, High Shincliffe, Durham, DH1 2PT	128	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	DCB	DCB - Framwelgate (South)	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	St Nicholas Church Hall, (Lower), Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ	191	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
DCD	DCD - Crossgate (Lower)	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham, DH1 4DE	597	No longer available - I propose to move to Waddington Street United Reform Church , Waddington Street, Durham DH1 4BG
DDB2	DDB2 - Gilesgate (West) 1	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	St Giles Church Hall, St Giles Church, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1QQ	323	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DEA1	DEA1 - St Nicholas (Town)	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	St Nicholas Church Hall, (Lower), Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ	645	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DEA2	DEA2 - St Nicholas (Sands)	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	St Nicholas Church Youth Club, The Sands, Durham, DH1 1LF	406	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DGA1	DGA1 - Elvet	Elvet and Gilesgate	City of Durham	St Oswalds Institute, Church Street, Co Durham, DH1 3DQ	841	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DMB	DMB - Witton Gilbert	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Witton Gilbert Village Hall, Sacriston Lane, Witton Gilbert, Co Durham, DH7 6TF	2051	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DAA1	DAA1 - Newton Hall North	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall, Durham, DH1 5LT	1124	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DAA2	DAA2 - Newton Hall North	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Finchale Primary School (2748), Canterbury Road, Newton Hall, Co Durham, DH1 5XT	1304	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DBA1	DBA1 - Newton Hall South	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall, Durham, DH1 5LT	961	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DBA2	DBA2 - Newton Hall South	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Finchale Primary School (2748), Canterbury Road, Newton Hall, Co Durham, DH1 5XT	1900	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DCA2	DCA2 - Framwelgate	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL	68	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DNA	DNA - Brasside	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Newton Hall Community Centre, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5GE	435	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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DNB1	DNB1 - Pity Me	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	The Sjovoll Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL	1033	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DNB2	DNB2 - Pity Me	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Newton Hall Community Centre, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5GE	586	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DNC	DNC - Framwellgate Moor	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL	2225	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DND	DND - Framwellgate Moor No 1	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall, Durham, DH1 5LT	481	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DNE	DNE - Framwellgate Moor No 2	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	City of Durham	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL	169	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DCA1	DCA1 - Framwellgate	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	St Cuthbert's Church Community Room, North Road, Durham, DH1 4NH	1535	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DCC1	DCC1 - Crossgate Lower	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham, DH1 4DE	799	No longer available - I propose to move electors to Waddington Street United Reform Church, Waddington Street, Durham DH1 4BG
DCC2	DCC2 - Crossgate Upper	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	St Johns Church Hall (Nevilles Cross), Crossgate Peth, Nevilles Cross, Co Durham, DH1 4DU	357	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DFA	DFA - Nevilles Cross (North)	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	St Johns Church Hall (Nevilles Cross), Crossgate Peth, Nevilles Cross, Co Durham, DH1 4DU	1465	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DFB	DFB - Nevilles Cross (South)	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	The Hub, Durham University, The Approach, Durham, DH1 3FP	1597	I propose an additional polling station at Merryoaks, Park House Road, Durham, DH1 3QF
DGA2	DGA2 - Elvet Hill	Nevilles Cross	City of Durham	St Oswalds Institute, Church Street, Co Durham, DH1 3DQ	38	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DJA	DJA - Pitlington	Sherburn	City of Durham	Pitlington Village Hall, Norman Terrace, High Pitlington, Co Durham, DH6 1AN	1084	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
DJB	DJB - Littletown	Sherburn	City of Durham	Pittington Village Hall, Norman Terrace, High Pittington, Co Durham, DH6 1AN	109	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DJC	DJC - West Rainton	Sherburn	City of Durham	Jubilee Hall, North Street, West Rainton, Houghton le Spring, Co Durham, DH4 6NU	1834	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DKA	DKA - Sherburn Hill	Sherburn	City of Durham	Sherburn Hill Community Hub, Front Street, Sherburn Hill, Co Durham, DH6 1PA	872	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DKB	DKB - Shadforth	Sherburn	City of Durham	Shadforth Village Hall, Southside, Shadforth, Co Durham, DH6 1NS	319	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DKD1	DKD1 - Sherburn Village	Sherburn	City of Durham	Sherburn Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1HD	1945	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DKD2	DKD2 - Sherburn Village	Sherburn	City of Durham	Attlee Square Communal Hall, Attlee Square, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1JN	594	No longer available – I propose to move electors to Sherburn Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1HD
DKC	DKC - Ludworth	Trimdon and Thornley	Easington	Ludworth Community Centre, North View, Ludworth, Co Durham, DH6 1NF	477	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
DQA	DQA - Brancepeth	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Brancepeth Village Hall, The Village, Brancepeth, Co Durham, DH7 8DD	348	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Final Proposals for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: Easington



Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
EAA	EAA - Hesleden	Blackhalls	Easington	Hesleden Workingman's Club, Front Street, Hesleden, Hartlepool, TS27 4PH	593	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EAB	EAB - Sheraton	Blackhalls	Easington	St Francis Community Hall (Former Church), Front Street, Hutton Henry, Co Durham, TS27 4RY	92	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EAC	EAC - Nesbitt	Blackhalls	Easington	St Francis Community Hall (Former Church), Front Street, Hutton Henry, Co Durham, TS27 4RY	10	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EAD	EAD - Hutton Henry	Blackhalls	Easington	St Francis Community Hall (Former Church), Front Street, Hutton Henry, Co Durham, TS27 4RY	370	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EAE	EAE - Castle Eden	Blackhalls	Easington	Castle Eden Village Hall, Stockton Road, Castle Eden, Hartlepool, TS27 4SD	531	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EBA	EBA - Blackhall Colliery	Blackhalls	Easington	Blackhall Resource Centre, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, Hartlepool, TS27 4AE – the premises are now called Monk Hesleden Parish Council	2041	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EBB	EBB - Blackhall Rocks No. 1	Blackhalls	Easington	St Joseph's Church Hall, Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HW	727	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EBC	EBC - Blackhall Rocks No. 2	Blackhalls	Easington	St Joseph's Church Hall, Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HW	950	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EOA	EOA - Dawdon No. 1	Dawdon	Easington	Parkside Community Centre, Parkside, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7UH	1362	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EOB	EOB - Dawdon No. 2	Dawdon	Easington	Seaham Trinity Primary School (3524), Princess Road, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7SP	1114	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EOC	EOC - Dawdon No. 3	Dawdon	Easington	Ropery Walk Primary School (2000), Ropery Walk, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7JZ	576	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EOD	EOD - Dawdon No. 4	Dawdon	Easington	Dawdon Community Centre, Queen Alexandra Road, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7NH	1069	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EQB	EQB - Seaham Harbour No. 2	Dawdon	Easington	St Mary Magdalens Parish Hall, Harbour Walk, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7DS	930	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EQC	EQC - Seaham Harbour No. 3	Dawdon	Easington	St John's Church Hall (Seaham), Church Street, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7SA	372	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
EQD	EQD - Seaham Harbour No. 4	Dawdon	Easington	St John's Church Hall (Seaham), Church Street, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7SA	711	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EPA	EPA - Dalton Urban	Deneside	Easington	Eastlea Community Centre, Stockton Road, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8DX	940	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EPB	EPB - Deneside No. 1	Deneside	Easington	Eastlea Community Centre, Stockton Road, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8DX	813	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EPC	EPC - Deneside No. 2	Deneside	Easington	All Saints Church (Seaham), Dalton Avenue, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8LN	1953	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ERB2	ERB2 - Seaham North No 1b	Deneside	Easington	Byron House, Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 0JY	318	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ERD	ERD - Seaham North No. 3	Deneside	Easington	The Golden Grove Inn, 5 West Grove, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8EL – the premises are now called Westlea Sports and Family Bar	1236	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EKA	EKA - Hawthorn	Easington	Easington	Hawthorn Community Centre, Hawthorn, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8SG	412	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EKB	EKB - Easington Village No.1	Easington	Easington	Seaton Holme, Hall Walk, Easington Village, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 3BS	945	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EKC	EKC - Easington Village No.2	Easington	Easington	Seaton Holme, Hall Walk, Easington Village, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 3BS	1148	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ELA	ELA - Easington Colliery No.1	Easington	Easington	Church of The Ascension Hall, Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 3PL	1866	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ELB	ELB - Easington Colliery No.2	Easington	Easington	Healthworks Building, Paradise Lane, Easington Colliery, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 3EX	1400	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EGA	EGA - Horden South No. 1	Horden	Easington	Horden Salvation Army Hall, Dene Street, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 4JY	651	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EGB	EGB - Horden South No. 2	Horden	Easington	Yohden Primary School (2733), Windsor Terrace, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 4HP	1581	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EHA	EHA - Horden North No. 1	Horden	Easington	Our Lady Star of The Sea R C Primary School (3507), Thorpe Road, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 4AB	1208	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EHB	EHB - Horden North No. 2	Horden	Easington	Our Lady Star of The Sea R C Primary School (3507), Thorpe Road, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 4AB	305	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EHC	EHC - Horden North No. 3	Horden	Easington	Horden Social Centre, Horden Parish Council Offices, Seventh Street, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 4LX	1470	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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EMA1	EMA1 - Murton West No. 1a	Murton	Easington	New Hesledon Social Club, Wellfield Road, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9HN	1541	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EMA2	EMA2 - Murton West No1b	Murton	Easington	Ribbon Academy (3517), Barnes Road, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9QR	141	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EMB	EMB - Murton West No. 2	Murton	Easington	Ribbon Academy (3517), Barnes Road, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9QR	347	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EMC	EMC - Murton West No. 3	Murton	Easington	Ribbon Academy (3517), Barnes Road, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9QR	536	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ENA	ENA - Dalton Village	Murton	Easington	Dalton-le-Dale Parish Hall, The Dene, Dalton-le-Dale, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 8QP	369	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ENB	ENB - Murton East No. 1	Murton	Easington	Ribbon Academy (3517), Barnes Road, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9QR	1467	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ENC	ENC - Murton East No. 2	Murton	Easington	The Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9BX	1063	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
END	END - Murton East No. 3	Murton	Easington	MacRae House, Seaview Walk, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9NA	273	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EDA	EDA - Passfield No. 1	Passfield	Easington	Oakerside Community Centre, Oakerside Drive, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 1QB	2511	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EDB1	EDB1 - Passfield No 2a	Passfield	Easington	Helford Road Pavilion, Helford Road, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 1EN	962	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ECA	ECA - Dene House	Peterlee East	Easington	Dene House Primary School (2018), Manor Way, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 5RL	2709	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EIA	EIA - Eden Hill	Peterlee East	Easington	East Durham Trust, Community House, Yoden Road, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 5DP	2764	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EDB2	EDB2 - Passfield No 2b	Peterlee West	Easington	Helford Road Pavilion, Helford Road, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 1EN	110	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EDC	EDC - Passfield No. 3	Peterlee West	Easington	East Durham College, Peterlee Campus, Willerby Grove, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 2RN	689	No change – the polling station is considered acceptable.
EFA	EFA - Howlatch	Peterlee West	Easington	Howlatch Lane Primary School (2734), Pennine Drive, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 2NQ	2388	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EJA	EJA - Acre Rigg	Peterlee West	Easington	Acre Rigg Academy (2008), Acre Rigg Road, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 2DU	2659	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
EQA	EQA - Seaham Harbour No. 1	Seaham	Easington	Earl House Community Centre, Earl Street, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 0DH – the premises are now called The Clarke Lister Feelgood Centre	1797	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ERA	ERA - Seaton	Seaham	Easington	Seaton Community Association Hall, Seaton Village, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 0NA	1044	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
ERB1	ERB1 - Seaham North No. 1a	Seaham	Easington	Byron House, Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 0JY	1109	As Byron House is not available a new polling station is required – a location within the offices of Seaham Town Council, Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham, SR7 0HP is recommended.
ERC	ERC - Seaham North No. 2	Seaham	Easington	St Mary Magdalens Parish Hall, Harbour Walk, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7DS	1276	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EEB	EEB - Haswell	Shotton and South Hetton	Easington	The Hazelwell Centre, Windsor Terrace, Haswell, Co Durham, DH6 2DY	1054	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EEC	EEC - Shotton No. 1	Shotton and South Hetton	Easington	Our Lady of Lourdes RCVA Primary School, Fleming Field, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham, DH6 2JQ	927	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EED	EED - Shotton No. 2	Shotton and South Hetton	Easington	Shotton Library, Co-operative Terrace, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham, DH6 2LW	1033	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EEE	EEE - Shotton No. 3	Shotton and South Hetton	Easington	Shotton Community Hub, Bridge Road, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham, DH6 2PQ	1527	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EKD	EKD - South Hetton	Shotton and South Hetton	Easington	Robin Todd Centre, Front Street, South Hetton, Co Durham, DH6 2TH	2108	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
EEA	EEA - Haswell Plough	Trimdon and Thornley	Easington	The Hazelwell Centre, Windsor Terrace, Haswell, Co Durham, DH6 2DY	327	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Final Proposals for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: North Durham



Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NDUA	NDUA - West Kyo	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Annfield Plain Library, North Road, Catchgate, Co Durham, DH9 8EZ	749	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDUB	NDUB - Hare Law	Annfield Plain	North Durham	St Thomas' Church Community Room, St Thomas` Church, Harelaw, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8DN	868	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDUC	NDUC - Catchgate	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Catchgate Primary School (2210), Blackett Street, Catchgate, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8LX	722	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDVA	NDVA - Greencroft	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Annfield Plain Cricket Club, Greencroft, Enterprise Park, Greencroft, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8PP	571	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDVB	NDVB - Clavering	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Annfield Plain Cricket Club, Greencroft, Enterprise Park, Greencroft, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8PP	633	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDVC	NDVC - St Aidan`s	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Annfield Plain Methodist Church Hall, Railway Street, Annfield Plain, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7SS	879	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDVD	NDVD - Fines Park	Annfield Plain	North Durham	Annfield Plain Library, North Road, Catchgate, Co Durham, DH9 8EZ	543	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDVE	NDVE - New Kyo	Annfield Plain	North Durham	New Kyo Constitutional Club, 1 Croft Terrace, New Kyo, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7TS	839	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDCA	NDCA - Chester East No 1	Chester-le-Street East	North Durham	Parish Centre, Church Chare, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3QB	571	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDCB	NDCB - Chester East No 2	Chester-le-Street East	North Durham	Evangel Church, Durham Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3LW	1072	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDCC	NDCC - Chester East No 3	Chester-le-Street East	North Durham	Evangel Church, Durham Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3LW	906	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NDLC1	NDLC1 - Chester North No 3	Chester-le-Street East	North Durham	ACF (Chester-le-Street), Picktree Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3SR	346	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDLA	NDLA - Chester North No 1	Chester-le-Street North	North Durham	Chester le Street Community Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3TS	820	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDLB1	NDLB1 - Chester North No 2a	Chester-le-Street North	North Durham	Chester le Street CE Primary School (3031), Hilda Park, South Pelaw, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 2JT	1243	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDLB2	NDLB2 - Chester North No 2b	Chester-le-Street North	North Durham	Holyoake Communal Hall, South Pelaw, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2EZ	877	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDFA	NDFA - Edmondsley & Waldrige No 1	Chester-le-Street South	North Durham	Waldrige Parish Rooms, Poplar Street, Waldrige, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3SE	202	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDFB1	NDFB1 - Edmondsley & Waldrige No 2a	Chester-le-Street South	North Durham	The Hermitage Academy (Sixth Form Centre), The Hermitage Academy (4054), Waldrige Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3AD	1847	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDFB2	NDFB2 - Edmondsley & Waldrige No 2b	Chester-le-Street South	North Durham	The Hermitage Academy (Sixth Form Centre), The Hermitage Academy (4054), Waldrige Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3AD	1173	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDFC	NDFC - Edmondsley & Waldrige No 3	Chester-le-Street South	North Durham	Chester Moor Communal Hall, The Crescent, Chester Moor, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3RT	203	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDJA	NDJA - Chester South	Chester-le-Street South	North Durham	Newker Primary School, Waldrige Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3AA	2431	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDHA	NDHA - Pelton Fell No. 1	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Pelton Fell Bowls Pavilion, Pelton Fell Park, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2RL	163	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDHB	NDHB - Pelton Fell No. 2	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	The Brockwell Centre, Craghead Road, Pelton Fell, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2NH	1421	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDIA	NDIA - Chester West No 1	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Bullion Hall, Bullion Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2DW	540	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDIB	NDIB - Chester West No 2	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Auckland Communal Room, Auckland, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2TU	1322	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NDIC	NDIC - Chester West No 3	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Auckland Communal Room, Auckland, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2TU	707	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDKA	NDKA - Chester Central No 1	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Chester le Street Library, Station Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3BP	575	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDKB	NDKB - Chester Central No 2	Chester-le-Street West Central	North Durham	Bullion Hall, Bullion Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 2DW	1294	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQA	NDQA - The Middles	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Craghead Village Hall, Middles Road, Craghead, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6AN	1487	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQB	NDQB - Craghead	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Spiritualist Church (Craghead), Front Street, Craghead, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6DS	654	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQC	NDQC - Burnside	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Burnside Family Centre, Mendip Terrace, South Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6QP	573	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDWA	NDWA - Oxhill North	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Oxhill Nursery School (1014), Oxhill, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7LR	291	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDWB1	NDWB1 - South Moor West No1	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	South Moor Methodist Church, Park Road, South Moor, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7QF	1178	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDWB2	NDWB2 - South Moor West No2	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	South Moor Methodist Church, Park Road, South Moor, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7QF	801	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDWC	NDWC - Quaking Houses	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Quaking Houses Village Hall, Second Street, Quaking Houses, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7HQ	584	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDWD	NDWD - Hustledown East	Craghead and South Moor	North Durham	Stanley Young Peoples Club, Severn Crescent, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7PX	205	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDAA1	NDAA1 - Bournmoor No 1a	Lumley	North Durham	St Barnabas Church Hall, 2 Rose Crescent, Bournmoor, Houghton le Spring, DH4 6ED	824	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDAA2	NDAA2 - Bournmoor No 1b	Lumley	North Durham	Lambourne Close Communal Hall, Lambourne Close, Bournmoor, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 6EW	808	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NDAB	NDAB - Bournmoor No 2	Lumley	North Durham	Woodlea Primary School (Nursery Unit) (2126), Woodstone Village, Fencehouses, Houghton le Spring, Co Durham, DH4 6AR	484	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDBA	NDBA - Lumley No 1	Lumley	North Durham	Great Lumley Community Centre, Front Street, Great Lumley, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 4JD	2891	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDBB	NDBB - Lumley No 2	Lumley	North Durham	Fencehouses Community Centre, Woodstone Village, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 6DS	736	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDLC2	NDLC2 - Chester North No 4	North Lodge	North Durham	ACF (Chester-le-Street), Picktree Lane, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 3SR	380	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDMA	NDMA - North Lodge No 1	North Lodge	North Durham	The Wheatsheaf Inn, Durham Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 2AB	2296	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDMB	NDMB - North Lodge No 2	North Lodge	North Durham	The Wheatsheaf Inn, Durham Road, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH3 2AB	514	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDGA	NDGA - Grange Villa & West Pelton No 2	Pelton	North Durham	Grange Villa Community Centre, East Street, Grange Villa, Co Durham, DH2 3LN	497	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDGB	NDGB - Grange Villa & West Pelton No 3	Pelton	North Durham	West Pelton Methodist Church, West Pelton, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6SA	170	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDGC	NDGC - Grange Villa & West Pelton No 4	Pelton	North Durham	Grange Villa Community Centre, East Street, Grange Villa, Co Durham, DH2 3LN	20	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDGD	NDGD - Grange Villa & West Pelton No 1	Pelton	North Durham	West Pelton Methodist Church, West Pelton, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6SA	329	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDNA1	NDNA1 - Pelton No 2a	Pelton	North Durham	Perkinsville Methodist Church, Ouston Lane, Perkinsville, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1QW	970	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDNA2	NDNA2 - Pelton No 2b	Pelton	North Durham	Pelton Community Centre, Front Street, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1DE	2056	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDNB	NDNB - Pelton No 3	Pelton	North Durham	Roseberry Primary and Nursery School (2744), Pelton Lane Ends, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1NP	1069	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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	NDNC	NDNC - Pelton No 4	Pelton	North Durham	Roseberry Primary and Nursery School (2744), Pelton Lane Ends, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1NP	201	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDND	NDND - Pelton No 5	Pelton	North Durham	Roseberry Primary and Nursery School (2744), Pelton Lane Ends, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1NP	213	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDOA	NDOA - Ouston No. 1	Pelton	North Durham	Ouston Community Centre, Iris Crescent, Ouston, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RJ	1016	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDOB	NDOB - Ouston No. 2	Pelton	North Durham	Ouston Community Centre, Iris Crescent, Ouston, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RJ	1114	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDOC	NDOC - Ouston No. 3	Pelton	North Durham	Perkinsville Methodist Church, Ouston Lane, Perkinsville, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1QW	93	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDPA	NDPA - Urpeth No 3	Pelton	North Durham	High Handenhold Fire Station, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1XF	71	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDPB1	NDPB1 - Urpeth No 1a	Pelton	North Durham	The Cherry Tree Pub, Bradley Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1TJ	1016	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDPB2	NDPB2 - Urpeth No 1b	Pelton	North Durham	The Cherry Tree Pub, Bradley Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1TJ	904	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDPC	NDPC - Urpeth No 2	Pelton	North Durham	High Handenhold Fire Station, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1XF	213	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDPD	NDPD - Urpeth No 4	Pelton	North Durham	High Handenhold Fire Station, Pelton, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1XF	250	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDDA	NDDA - Kimblesworth & Plawsworth No 1	Sacrison	North Durham	Kimblesworth & Plawsworth Community Centre, Front Street, Nettlesworth, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3PG	760	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDDB	NDDB - Kimblesworth & Plawsworth No 2	Sacrison	North Durham	The Fulforth Centre, Front Street, Sacrison, Co Durham, DH7 6JT	469	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
	NDDC	NDDC - Kimblesworth & Plawsworth No 3	Sacrison	North Durham	Kimblesworth Church Hall, Parish Church, Kimblesworth, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 3QD	247	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NDEA	NDEA - Sacriston No 1	Sacriston	North Durham	The Fulforth Centre, Front Street, Sacriston, Co Durham, DH7 6JT	444	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDEB1	NDEB1 - Sacriston No 2a	Sacriston	North Durham	The Fulforth Centre, Front Street, Sacriston, Co Durham, DH7 6JT	1997	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDEB2	NDEB2 - Sacriston No 2b	Sacriston	North Durham	Fyndoune Community College (6500), The Durham Federation, Main School Building, Findon Hill, Sacriston, Co Durham, DH7 6LU	534	As Fyndoune Community College is no longer available a new polling station is required – it is recommended that the electors from polling district NDEB2 are moved to the existing polling station at the Salvation Army Church, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, DH7 6PE
NDEB3	NDEB3 - Sacriston No 2c	Sacriston	North Durham	The Salvation Army Church(Sacriston), Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Co Durham, DH7 6PE	846	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDFD	NDFD - Edmondsley & Waldrige No 4	Sacriston	North Durham	Edmondsley Parish Hall, (near Appledore Gardens), Edmondsley, Co Durham, DH7 6DW	426	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQD	NDQD - Holly Hill	Stanley	North Durham	Burnside Family Centre, Mendip Terrace, South Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6QP	670	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQE	NDQE - Stanley Banks	Stanley	North Durham	North Durham Academy (Sports & Community Hall), Access off Slaidburn Road, Stanley, DH9 0DF	328	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDQF	NDQF - Hustledown West	Stanley	North Durham	Stanley Young Peoples Club, Severn Crescent, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 7PX	668	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDRA	NDRA - Towneley	Stanley	North Durham	The Venue, Wear Road, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6AH	1727	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDRB	NDRB - King`s Head	Stanley	North Durham	North Durham Academy (Sports & Community Hall), Access off Slaidburn Road, Stanley, DH9 0DF	1723	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NDSA	NDSA - Hill Top	Stanley	North Durham	View Lane Bowling Club, Bourne Court, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 0XR	707	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDSB	NDSB - No Place	Stanley	North Durham	North Durham Academy (Sports & Community Hall), Access off Slaidburn Road, Stanley, DH9 0DF	246	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDSC	NDSC - Shield Row	Tanfield	North Durham	Shield Row Community House, Shield Row Gardens, Shield row, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 8RF	1845	As Shield Row Community House is no longer available a new polling station is required – Stanley Education Centre, King Edward VIII Terrace, Shield Row, Stanley, DH9 0HQ is recommended.
NDSD	NDSD - Stanley Central	Tanfield	North Durham	Practice Gym, The Louisa Centre, Front Street, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 0TE -the polling station has been moved to the Club Room	1238	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDTA	NDTA - Good Street Estate	Tanfield	North Durham	Tanfield Lea Community Centre, Leith Gardens, Tanfield Lea, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9LZ	307	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDTB	NDTB - Tanfield Lea	Tanfield	North Durham	Tanfield Lea Community Centre, Leith Gardens, Tanfield Lea, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9LZ	1584	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDTC	NDTC - White-Le-Head	Tanfield	North Durham	White-Le-Head Methodist Church Hall, West Road, Tantobie, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9RX	408	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDTD	NDTD - Tantobie	Tanfield	North Durham	Tantobie Community Centre, The Playing Fields, South View, Tantobie, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9TJ	545	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NDTE	NDTE - Tanfield	Tanfield	North Durham	St Margarets Church Hall, Tanfield Village, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9PX	390	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Final Proposals for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: North West Durham



Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NWDCF	NWDCF - Snows Green	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Shotley Bridge Primary School (Juniors), Snows Green Road, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0ES	531	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDEA	NWDEA - Shotley Bridge East	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Shotley Bridge Primary School (Juniors), Snows Green Road, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0ES	598	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDEB	NWDEB - Shotley Bridge West	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Shotley Bridge Primary School (Juniors), Snows Green Road, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0ES	380	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDEC	NWDEC - Benfieldside	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Benfieldside Primary School (2749), (Community Room), Moorlands, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0JX	2479	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDED	NWDED - Blackhill North 1	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Blackhill Community Centre, Derwent Street, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8LS	504	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDFA	NWDFA - Bridgehill	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Blackhill Baptist Church Hall, New Pemberton Road, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0SG	1099	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDFB	NWDFB - Blackhill North 2	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Blackhill Community Centre, Derwent Street, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8LS	246	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDFC	NWDFC - St Mary`s	Benfieldside	Blaydon and Consett	Blackhill Baptist Church Hall, New Pemberton Road, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0SG	530	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDAA	NWDAA - Leazes	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Burnopfield Community Centre, Leazes, Syke Road, Burnopfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE16 6JF	2045	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDAB	NWDAB - Burnopfield	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Burnopfield Ambulance Station, Lilac Cresent, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 6PT	1132	It has proved impossible to obtain a response from Burnhopefield Ambulance Station – it is recommended that the polling station be moved to The Bunhopefield Victory Club, Dene View, Burnhopefield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE16 6QA

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NWDAC	NWDAC - Crookgate	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Burnopfield Ambulance Station, Lilac Crescent, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 6PT	484	It has proved impossible to obtain a response from Burnhopefield Ambulance Station – it is recommended that the polling station be moved to The Bunhopefield Victory Club, Dene View, Burnhopefield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE16 6QA
NWDBA	NWDBA - Hobson	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Burnopfield Community Centre, Leazes, Syke Road, Burnopfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE16 6JF	277	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDBB	NWDBB - Dipton	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Dipton Jubilee Centre, Front Street, Dipton, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9DR	1169	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDBC	NWDBC - Flint Hill	Burnopfield and Dipton	Blaydon and Consett	Prince of Wales Inn, (Front Entrance), North Road, Flint Hill, Dipton, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9JJ	1076	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDFD	NWDFD - Blackhill South	Consett North	Blaydon and Consett	Blackhill Community Centre, Derwent Street, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8LS	951	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDFE	NWDFE - St Aidan`s	Consett North	Blaydon and Consett	Masonic Hall (Blackhill), Laburnum Avenue, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5TB	649	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDGA	NWDGA - Berry Edge East	Consett North	Blaydon and Consett	Christ Church Consett, Parliament Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5DL	2757	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDGB	NWDGB - Villa Real	Consett North	Blaydon and Consett	Villa Real School (7028), Villa Real Road, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 6BH	621	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDGC	NWDGC - Belle Vue	Consett North	Blaydon and Consett	Consett Leisure Centre (Studio 3), Medomsley Road, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5HU	847	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDIA	NWDIA - Moorside	Consett South	Blaydon and Consett	St John`s Church Hall (Moorside), Chester Road, Moorside, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8EQ	1513	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDIB	NWDIB - The Grove	Consett South	Blaydon and Consett	The Grove Methodist Church, Holly Gardens, The Grove, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8AZ	1070	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NWDIC	NWDIC - Berry Edge West	Consett South	Blaydon and Consett	Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5AQ	1343	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDTA	NWDTA - Fir Tree	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Howden-le-Wear Village Hall, Hargill Haven, Howden-le-Wear, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8HS	244	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDTB	NWDTB - Howden	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Howden-le-Wear Village Hall, Hargill Haven, Howden-le-Wear, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8HS	1070	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDUB	NWDUB - Crook North	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Hartside Primary Academy (2310), Hartside, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9NN	952	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDVA	NWDVA - Crook East	Crook	Bishop Auckland	St Catherines Community Centre, Market Place, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8NE	1171	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDVB	NWDVB - Crook South	Crook	Bishop Auckland	St Catherines Community Centre, Market Place, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8NE	327	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDVC	NWDVC - Mown Meadows Crook	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Millfield Clubhouse, Crook Town A.F.C, West Road, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9PW	2740	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDWA	NWDWA - Wheatbottom	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Communal Room (Wheatbottom), 20 Wheatbottom, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9HB	891	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDWB	NWDWB - Watergate	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Communal Room (Wheatbottom), 20 Wheatbottom, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9HB	848	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDWC	NWDWC - Helmington Row	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Helmington Row Village Hall, Helmington Row, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0RY	346	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDZA	NWDZA - North Bitchburn	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Cricket Club House, North Bitchburn, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8AL	326	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDZB	NWDZB - High Grange	Crook	Bishop Auckland	Cricket Club House, North Bitchburn, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8AL	142	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDOC	NWDOC - Esh Winning	Deerness	City of Durham	Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning, Co Durham, DH7 9LS	656	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NWDOD	NWDOD - Hedleyhope	Deerness	City of Durham	East Hedleyhope Village Hall, East Hedleyhope, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4PY	151	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDHA	NWDHA - Consett East	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Citizens House, Station Road, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5RL	729	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDHB	NWDHB - Templetown South	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5AQ	961	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDJA	NWDJA - Crookhall	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Crookhall Community Centre, Second Street, Crookhall, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7LU	416	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDJB	NWDJB - Delves Lane North	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Consett AFC Belle View Stadium, (Fun Room), Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7BF	2002	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDJC	NWDJC - Templetown North	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5AQ	182	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDJD	NWDJD - Delves Lane South	Delves Lane	Blaydon and Consett	Delves Lane Village Hall, Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7BH	1913	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDNA	NWDNA - Esh	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	St Michael's RC Primary School (3407), (Sports Hall), Esh Laude, Esh Village, Co Durham, DH7 9QW	294	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDNB	NWDNB - Willow Park	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Miners Institute Langley Park, Church Street, Langley Park, Co Durham, DH7 9TZ	103	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDNC	NWDNC - Langley Park East	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Miners Institute Langley Park, Church Street, Langley Park, Co Durham, DH7 9TZ	1246	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDND	NWDND - Langley Park West	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Miners Institute Langley Park, Church Street, Langley Park, Co Durham, DH7 9TZ	1958	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDNE	NWDNE - Ushaw	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	St Michael's RC Primary School (3407), (Sports Hall), Esh Laude, Esh Village, Co Durham, DH7 9QW	29	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDNF	NWDNF - Quebec	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Quebec Village Hall, Front Street, Quebec, Co Durham, DH7 9DF	173	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NWDOA	NWDOA - Cornsay	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Royal Oak, 1 Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery, Co Durham, DH7 9BN	81	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDOB	NWDOB - Cornsay Colliery	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Royal Oak, 1 Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery, Co Durham, DH7 9BN	148	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDOE	NWDOE - Satley	Esh and Witton Gilbert	City of Durham	Satley Parish Hall, Satley, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4HU	256	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDKA	NWDKA - Castleside	Lanchester	North Durham	Castleside Village Hall, Drover Road, Castleside, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9RE	1269	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDKB	NWDKB - Muggleswick	Lanchester	North Durham	Muggleswick Parish Hall, Muggleswick, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9DL	99	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDLA	NWDLA - Lanchester North	Lanchester	North Durham	Lanchester Bowling Club Pavilion, The Green, Lanchester, Co Durham, DH7 0PB	785	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDLB	NWDLB - Lanchester East	Lanchester	North Durham	Lanchester Community Centre, (Rear Entrance), Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, Co Durham, DH7 0HY	2473	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDLC	NWDLC - Maiden Law	Lanchester	North Durham	Lanchester Community Centre, (Rear Entrance), Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, Co Durham, DH7 0HY	242	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDMA	NWDMA - Burnhope	Lanchester	North Durham	Burnhope Community Centre, Langley Avenue, Burnhope, Durham, DH7 0AG	1130	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDMB	NWDMB - Holmside	Lanchester	North Durham	Burnhope Community Centre, Langley Avenue, Burnhope, Durham, DH7 0AG	74	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDCA	NWDCA - Ebchester	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Ebchester Community Centre, Shaw Lane, Ebchester, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 0PY	905	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDCB	NWDCB - Hamsterley	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Dene Court Communal Room, Dene Court, Hamsterley Colliery, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE17 7SF	1106	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDCC	NWDCC - The Dene	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Methodist Church Hall (Medomsley), Medomsley, Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 6QR	305	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

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NWDCD	NWDCD - Medomsley Edge	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Methodist Church Hall (Medomsley), Medomsley, Consett, Co. Durham , DH8 6QR	229	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDCE	NWDCE - Medomsley	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Methodist Church Hall (Medomsley), Medomsley, Consett, Co. Durham , DH8 6QR	826	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDDA	NWDDA - Leadgate South	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Leadgate Community Centre, Back Plantation Street, Leadgate, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7PP	1829	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWddb	NWddb - Leadgate East	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Leadgate Methodist Church, Tyne Avenue, Leadgate, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 6EL	866	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDDC	NWDDC - Bradley and Pont	Leadgate and Medomsley	Blaydon and Consett	Leadgate Methodist Church, Tyne Avenue, Leadgate, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 6EL	630	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDSA	NWDSA - Sunnyside	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Sunnyside Community Centre, Flag Terrace, Sunnyside, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL13 4LR	265	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDSB	NWDSB - Stanley	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Stanley Village Community Hall, High Road, Stanley, Crook, County Durham, DL15 9SN	630	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWdsc	NWdsc - Billy Row	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Communal Room (Billy Row), Stanley Way, Billy Row, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9TF	572	As Communal Room (Billy Row) is not available a new polling station is required – it is recommended that the electors from polling district NWdsc are moved to Peases West Sports Centre, Crook, DL15 9AH
NWdSD	NWdSD - Tow Law Rural 1	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Tow Law Community Centre, Ironworks Road, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4AW	45	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWdSE	NWdSE - Tow Law Rural 2	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Tow Law Millennium Primary School, Wear Street, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4LF	16	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWdSF	NWdSF - Tow Law Rural 3	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Thornley Village Hall, Thornley, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4PF	102	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NWDSG1	NWDSG1 - Tow Law 1	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Tow Law Community Centre, Ironworks Road, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4AW	699	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDSG2	NWDSG2 - Tow Law 2	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Tow Law Millennium Primary School, Wear Street, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4LF	795	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDUA	NWDUA - Roddymoor	Tow Law	Bishop Auckland	Crook Community Leisure, Peases West Sports Centre, Roddymoor, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9AH	349	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDPA	NWDPA - Ireshopeburn	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	The Institute (Ireshopeburn), Front Street, Ireshopeburn, Co Durham, DL13 1ER	154	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDPB	NWDPB - St Johns Chapel	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Barrington Hall, Market Place, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 1QQ	363	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDPC	NWDPC - Lanehead	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Cowhill & Lanehead Village Hall, Cowhill, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 1DA	167	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDPD	NWDPD - Wearhead	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Wearhead Primary School (2324), Bents Lane, Wearhead, Co Durham, DL13 1BN	187	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDPE	NWDPE - Westgate	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Westgate Village Hall, Westgate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 1RX	340	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQA	NWDQA - Eastgate	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Eastgate Village Hall, Eastgate, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2HJ	114	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQB	NWDQB - Frosterley	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Frosterley Village Hall, 17 Front Street, Frosterley, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2QW	672	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQC	NWDQC - Rookhope	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Rookhope Village Hall, Rookhope, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2DA	215	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQD	NWDQD - Stanhope Urban	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	St Thomas Church Hall (Stanhope), 40/42 Front Street, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2UE	1104	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQE	NWDQE - Stanhope Rural	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	St Thomas Church Hall (Stanhope), 40/42 Front Street, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2UE	371	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Page Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NWDQF	NWDQF - Edmundbyers	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Edmundbyers Village Hall, Edmundbyers, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9NL	155	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDQG	NWDQG - Hunstanworth	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Hunstanworth Village Hall, Blanchland, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9UP	97	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDRA	NWDRA - Witton-Le-Wear	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Witton le Wear Community Centre, School Street, Witton le Wear, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 0AS	561	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDRB1	NWDRB1 - Wolsingham Urban	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	St Thomas Centre, Rectory Lane, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 3AG	1701	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDRB2	NWDRB2 - Wolsingham Rural	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	St Thomas Centre, Rectory Lane, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 3AG	231	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDRC	NWDRC - Thornley Rural	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Thornley Village Hall, Thornley, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4PF	57	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDRD	NWDRD - Harperley Roundabout	Weardale	Bishop Auckland	Thornley Village Hall, Thornley, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 4PF	1	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXA	NWDXA - Low Willington	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0QX	1353	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXB	NWDXB - Willington South	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Primary School (2326), Chapel Street, Willington, Co Durham, DL15 0EQ	943	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXC	NWDXC - Rosedale	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Open Door Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Willington, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0AG	586	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXD	NWDXD - Oakenshaw	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Open Door Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Willington, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0AG	465	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXE	NWDXE - Page Bank	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0QX	28	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDXF1	NWDXF1 - Sunnybrow 1	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Sunnybrow Primary School (2316), Hunwick Lane, Sunnybrow, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0LT	297	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
NWDXF2	NWDXF2 - Sunnybrow 2	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Sunnybrow Community Centre, Dovedale Avenue, Sunnybrow, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0XD	464	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDYA	NWDYA - Willington West	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Willington Primary School (2326), Chapel Street, Willington, Co Durham, DL15 0EQ	1096	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDYB	NWDYB - Sunnybrow	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Sunnybrow Primary School (2316), Hunwick Lane, Sunnybrow, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0LT	202	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
NWDZC	NWDZC - Hunwick	Willington and Hunwick	City of Durham	Hunwick Primary School (2302), Church Lane, Hunwick, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 0JX	1026	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Final Proposal for the Current Parliamentary Constituency: Sedgefield



Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
SHA	SHA - Aycliffe Village	Aycliffe East	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace, Aycliffe Village, Co Durham, DL5 6LG	749	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SHB	SHB - Neville	Aycliffe East	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Methodist Church Hall (Newton Aycliffe), Greville Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 5DH	1563	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SIA1	SIA1 - Shafto St Marys	Aycliffe East	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Sugar Hill Infants School (2743), Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 5NU	1039	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SIA2	SIA2 - Shafto St Marys	Aycliffe East	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Vane Road Primary School (2742), Vane Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 5RH	1368	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SIB	SIB - Aycliffe Central	Aycliffe East	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 4HT	1504	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SEA	SEA - Middridge	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Middridge Village Hall, Walker Lane, Middridge, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7JN	553	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SEB	SEB - Byerley Park Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 1	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Formerly Greenfield Meeting Hall, Ladybower, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7EU	955	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SEC	SEC - Byerley Park Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 2	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Formerly Greenfield Meeting Hall, Ladybower, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7EU	1134	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SED	SED - Byerley Park Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 3	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Scout H.Q. (Newton Aycliffe), Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7PW	1034	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SGA1	SGA1 - Woodham 1	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Woodham Village Community Centre, St Elizabeth`s Close, Woodham Village, Co Durham, DL5 4UE	2030	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SGA2	SGA2 - Woodham 2	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 4QT	2723	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
SEE	SEE - West No.6	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Silverdale House, 8/9 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7DZ	349	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SFA	SFA - West No. 1	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	The Turbinia, Parsons Centre, Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7PA	541	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SFB	SFB - West No. 2	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	St Josephs Primary School, A Catholic Academy (2020), Garburn Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7DE	602	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SFC	SFC - West No. 3	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Silverdale House, 8/9 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7DZ	356	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SFD	SFD - West No. 4	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7DD	1632	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SFE	SFE - West No. 5	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Oakleaf Sports Complex, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 6QZ	559	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SHC	SHC - Simpasture	Aycliffe West	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Simpasture Court, Supported Housing, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 5JZ	1233	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SCA	SCA - Bishop Middleham	Bishop Middleham and Cornforth	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Bishop Middleham Village Hall, Front Street, Bishop Middleham, Co Durham, DL17 9AJ	1010	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SCB	SCB - Cornforth	Bishop Middleham and Cornforth	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, West Cornforth, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 9LA	1870	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SMA	SMA - Station Town	Blackhalls	Easington	Milbank Methodist Church, Milbank Chapel Terrace, Station Town, Wingate, Co Durham, TS28 5DS	811	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SDA	SDA - Chilton No. 1	Chilton	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Chilton Catholic Club, Sacred Heart Community Centre, Brooklyn Road, Chilton, Co Durham, DL17 0PW	1912	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SDB	SDB - Chilton No. 2	Chilton	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Hutton House, Durham Road, Chilton, Co Durham, DL17 0HE	1514	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SDD	SDD - Windlestone	Chilton	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Chilton Catholic Club, Sacred Heart Community Centre, Brooklyn Road, Chilton, Co Durham, DL17 0PW	194	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Page 126 Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
SAA	SAA - Ferryhill & Dean Bank No. 1	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	All Saints Community Centre (Formerly Ferryhill Catholic Club), 93 Dean Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8ET	678	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SAB	SAB - Ferryhill & Dean Bank No. 2	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	St Lukes Parish Centre, Church Lane, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8LT	992	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SAC	SAC - Ferryhill & Dean Bank No. 3	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	St Lukes Parish Centre, Church Lane, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8LT	69	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SAD	SAD - Ferryhill & Dean Bank No. 4	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute, St Cuthberts Terrace, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8PP	1110	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SBA	SBA - Broom No. 1	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre, Lambton Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8TB	1648	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SBB	SBB - Broom No. 2	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre, Lambton Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8TB	1780	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SDC1	SDC1 - Ferryhill Station	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Royal British Legion Club, Back Linden Terrace, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0DQ	400	No longer available due to closure – I propose to move electors to Mainsforth Community Association, High Street, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0AG
SDC2	SDC2 - Ferryhill Station	Ferryhill	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Mainsforth Community Association, High Street, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham, DL17 0AG	229	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SJA	SJA - Mordon	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Mordon Village Hall, Aycliffe Lane, Mordon, Sedgefield, Stockton on Tees, TS21 2EY	218	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SJB	SJB - Bradbury	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Mordon Village Hall, Aycliffe Lane, Mordon, Sedgefield, Stockton on Tees, TS21 2EY	105	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SJC	SJC - Sedgefield Urban	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Sedgefield Parish Hall, Front Street, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3AT	4208	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SJD	SJD - Sedgefield Rural	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Sedgefield Parish Hall, Front Street, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3AT	360	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Polling District	Polling District Reference	County Division	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place Address	Current Parliamentary Electorate	Returning Officer's Final Proposal
SKA	SKA - Fishburn	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Fishburn & District Working Mens Club, Rear Alhambra Terrace, Fishburn, Stockton on Tees, TS21 4BU	1859	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SKB	SKB - Old Trimdon	Trimdon and Thornley	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Trimdon Village Hall, Hallgarth Road, Trmidon Village, Co Durham, TS29 6JX	2143	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SLA	SLA - New Trimdon & Trimdon Grange No. 1	Trimdon and Thornley	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Trimdon Colliery & Deaf Hill W.M.C., The Square, Trimdon Colliery, Co Durham, TS29 6AJ	412	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SLB	SLB - New Trimdon & Trimdon Grange No. 2	Trimdon and Thornley	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Trimdon Grange Community Centre, Salters Lane, Trimdon Grange, Co Durham, TS29 6PB	881	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SMB	SMB - Trimdon Foundry No. 1	Trimdon and Thornley	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Trimdon Station Community Centre, Station Road East, Trimdon Station, Co Durham, TS29 6BS	627	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SMC	SMC - Trimdon Foundry No. 2	Trimdon and Thornley	Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor	Trimdon Station Residents Association, 29/30 May Crescent, Trimdon Station, Co Durham, TS29 6BA	402	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SNA	SNA - Wheatley Hill No. 1	Trimdon and Thornley	Easington	All Saints Church (Wheatley Hill), Church Street, Wheatley Hill, Co Durham, DH6 3PT	536	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SNB	SNB - Wheatley Hill No. 2	Trimdon and Thornley	Easington	Wheatley House, 20 Aged Miners Homes, Wheatley Hill, Co Durham, DH6 3JX	1879	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SNC	SNC - Thornley	Trimdon and Thornley	Easington	Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley, Co Durham, DH6 3EL	1911	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SMD	SMD - Wingate No.1	Wingate	Easington	Wingate Community Centre, Front Street West, Wingate, Co Durham, TS28 5AA	883	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.
SME	SME - Wingate No.2	Wingate	Easington	Gully House, Gully Road, Wingate, Co Durham, TS28 5BU	2396	No change - the polling station is considered acceptable.

Council

24 January 2024

Overview and Scrutiny – Six Monthly Update



Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Rob Crute - Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide information to County Council on the activity of overview and scrutiny for the six month period June to November 2023.

Executive summary

- 2 It has previously been agreed that a six month update on the activity of overview and scrutiny is considered by Council, in addition to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report which is submitted to Council in July/September each year.
- 3 This update sets out the approach that scrutiny has been taking since the elections in May 2021, regular matters which feature in the committee work programmes and highlights some items which have formed part of more in-depth scrutiny over the six month period to November 2023.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Council is recommended to:
 - (a) note the information on overview and scrutiny activity which has taken place in the six month period June to November 2023.

Background

- 5 As a result of statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny arrangements in local authorities published in 2019, the County Council agreed a six-monthly report of overview and scrutiny activity be submitted to council to assist in the communication of scrutiny's role and purpose.
- 6 This update report highlights some of the work scrutiny has undertaken in the six month period to November 2023 and complements the annual report which is submitted to council each year.
- 7 At the annual meeting of Council in May 2023, Cllr Rob Crute was appointed as Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) and Cllr Chris Lines re-appointed as Vice Chair of the Board. In their role as the strategic driver of the overview and scrutiny function, they have encouraged an inclusive and transparent approach to carrying out scrutiny.
- 8 Contributing to policy development is a key task for scrutiny and the scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs have a clear ambition to increase activity in this field.
- 9 Overview and scrutiny has continued the practice of meeting with members of the Executive regularly. This approach was recommended in the statutory guidance issued in 2019 and it was acknowledged that Durham County Council has a strong record of sharing information with the Executive.
- 10 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) oversees and co-ordinates the work of overview and scrutiny committees. Five thematic overview and scrutiny committees scrutinise the following themes:
 - Adults, Wellbeing and Health
 - Children and Young People
 - Economy and Enterprise
 - Environment and Sustainable Communities
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
- 11 Durham County Council's overview and scrutiny function has embedded the four principles of good scrutiny in all the work it does. These principles, originally developed by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, inform and shape scrutiny work. They state that overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive critical friend challenge
 - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public
 - Be led by independent minded people who take responsibility for their role
 - Drive improvement in public services
- 12 Scrutiny committees undertake regular monitoring of budget and performance reports, receive updates on previous reviews and undertake light touch and in depth review activity.
- 13 All scrutiny members have received the corporate induction training following the May 2021 elections. This has been supplemented by bespoke scrutiny training delivered by the Scrutiny team. Overview and scrutiny members have also had the opportunity to take up training provided by the LGA in collaboration with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and the North East Regional Employers Organisation.
- 14 Comprehensive work programmes are developed by scrutiny committees each year and this update highlights only some of the work they carry out.

Scrutiny Committee Activity

- 15 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB)

Chair: Councillor Rob Crute,
Vice Chair: Councillor Chris Lines

- (a) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 14) 2024/25 – 2027/28

COSMB has a constitutional role in assisting Cabinet in the development of the council's annual budget. The Council is operating in a period of significant financial uncertainty with concerns about the impact of inflation and fuel and energy prices. The Board continues to be updated by the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services and will consider the impact of the local government financial settlement on the council's budget and MTFP forecasts. The Board considered its first report on 1 September 2023 which included a review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts and Premium Policy. A further report was considered on 1 December 2023 which updated financial planning assumptions for the MTFP14 process and set out details of further savings proposals that could be implemented to help balance the budget and details of the associated consultation process.

(b) Community Engagement (AAP) Review

The Board considered an update report on the Council's review of its main community engagement function – its Area Action Partnerships at a special meeting on 22 September 2023. As part of its previous consideration of this matter, the Board had requested that the proposed model agreed by Cabinet at its meeting in July 2023 be brought back for further consideration including an examination of the consultation feedback and analysis, the key principles taken forward for the new model and those which have been discounted and the planned development of local networks. The Board asked that the proposed governance arrangements for the new model be brought back to the Board for consideration and comment.

(c) RIPA Annual Report 2022/23

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided information about the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') during the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The report also presented proposed changes on the Council's Corporate RIPA Guidance as part of the annual review for comment by the Board prior to its consideration by Cabinet. In considering the report, the Board noted the detailed RIPA training provided to responsible officers as well as awareness training to wider tier 4 and 5 managers.

16 Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC)

Chair: Councillor Veronica Andrews

Vice Chair: Councillor Matt Johnson

(a) North East and North Cumbria ICB Joint Forward Plan 2023/24 to 2028/29

The Committee considered a report and presentation on the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board draft Joint Forward Plan 2023/24 to 2028/29. This was a national requirement and set out how the ICB and NHS Trusts would arrange and/or provide NHS services to meet the population's physical and mental health needs; deliver the NHS Mandate and NHS Long Term Plan in the area • and meet the legal requirements for ICBs. In considering the plan, the Committee raised several issues which they forwarded to the ICS Chief Executive as a formal response to the consultation and which included the need for strong links between the Joint Forward Plan and the ICB County Durham Plan considered in May 2023; support for the service delivery

plans for pharmacy, optometry and dental services and the need for a robust performance management framework to measure success against the plan.

(b) Shotley Bridge Hospital project

The Committee received a presentation from representatives of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the National Hospitals Programme updating members on the plans for the reprovision of services currently delivered at Shotley Bridge Hospital including the planned new Hospital development. The Committee highlighted local community concerns around the delays to the project and the impact of ongoing inflationary pressures on the project scope and funding.

It was reported that the financial envelope remained unchanged but that the scheme had to be affordable, deliverable and sustainable. Members expressed concerns that the financial pressures may lead to a reduction in the services to be provided from the new facility and agreed to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requesting the sufficient resources were allocated to the project to ensure that the planned level of service delivery at the new site would be retained.

(c) County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Maternity Services Inspection and Improvement Action plan

As part of its assurance role in overseeing CQC Inspection reports for NHS Foundation Trust Services, the Committee received a presentation from Sue Jacques, Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust detailing the findings of CQC Inspection reports into Maternity Services at Darlington Memorial Hospital and University Hospital North Durham. Members questioned the Trust representatives on the proposed improvement action plans following the Trust's maternity services being downgraded at both sites to Inadequate and have requested that a further report be brought to the Committee once the services have been re-inspected by the CQC.

17 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

Chair Councillor Anne Reed
Vice Chair Councillor James Cosslett

(a) Holiday Activities with Healthy Food (Fun and Food) in County Durham

At its meeting on 6 July 2023, the Committee considered a presentation setting out the County Durham Fun and Food Programme during 2022. Whilst noting that the Department for Education (DfE) provided all Local Authorities with funding to provide free holiday activities and healthy food for children that are eligible for benefits related free school meals during Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods in 2022. Half term school holiday periods are not funded by DfE. Durham was allocated £2,338,740.00, to provide free 'holiday clubs' and committed to offering all eligible and other vulnerable children access to a range of enriching activities with healthy food. Recognising the need and demand for holiday activities with healthy food remains during half term holidays an additional £80,00 from Public Health for February half term and £150,000 was secured from the Poverty Action Steering Group (PASG) for May and October half terms 2022.

Members noted that nearly 35,000 children and young people engaged with the Fun and Food programme in Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022 (DfE funded holidays). Over 11,000 children and young people engaged in the half term holidays (DCC funded holidays February, May and October 2022). Throughout 2022 a total of 46,000 children and young people engaged in Fun and Food provision.

(b) Home to School Transport Services

In March 2023, the Committee submitted a response to the Council's consultation on Home to School Transport services. Following consideration of the consultation responses by Cabinet on 14 June 2023, the CYPOSC agreed to revisit the consultation responses and examine how these had influenced the recommendations agreed by Cabinet.

Members noted the response rates to the consultation and the specific recommendations agreed by the Cabinet. These included the charge for the standard and maintained concessionary scheme being set at £2 for the 2023/24 academic year. The Committee also agreed that further reports on the remaining recommendations be brought forward to the CYPOSC.

(c) Best Start in Life, Family Health services and Family Hubs

The Committee's meeting on 13 November 2023 was a themed session with reports and presentations considered in respect of the progress made in addressing the 7 Best start in Life priorities; the 0-25 Family Health Service workforce and service delivery across County Durham provided by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and

the Family Hub and Start for Life Programme delivered across County Durham.

The Committee noted the development of a peri-natal and infant mental health strategy for County Durham which is to be consulted upon in early 2024 and due for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2024. The Committee requested a further update report on the strategy development with a view to submitting comments as part of the consultation process.

18 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&E OSC)

Chair Councillor Bill Moist
Vice Chair Councillor Angela Surtees

(a) Inclusive Economic Strategy

The EEOOSC has been extensively involved in the development of the Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES) and held a workshop on 20 July 2023 to examine the key areas of delivery against the Strategy's 4 "P's" of People, Productivity, Place and Promotion. The member comments at the workshop were fed back to the service to inform the Draft IES Delivery Plan which was subsequently considered at the EEOOSC meeting on 6 October 2023. Following further feedback provided to the service, the final draft IES Delivery Plan was adopted by Cabinet on 15 November 2023.

Members of the Committee were also advised that the IES and Delivery Plan will inform a new Investment Plan which will be used to promote major projects and investment opportunities to prospective investors and the Committee have asked for detail of the investment plan to come to a future meeting.

(b) Draft Housing Strategy

The Committee hosted a workshop on 10 July 2023 for all OS members to examine the 'Principles and Priorities Paper' used to develop the draft housing strategy. The comments made by members during the workshop were submitted as an Overview and Scrutiny response used to inform the development of the Housing Strategy. Key areas examined included prevention of homelessness, ensuring a range of housing options are available to all groups, key housing issues within communities; housing's contribution to the Climate Emergency Response Plan; how housing supports the local economy; ensuring

everyone has access to a warm, safe home and how we can meet the need for affordable homes.

(c) Overview of County Durham's Visitor Economy – Draft Destination Management Plan 2023 to 2030

The Committee have identified the economic benefits and contributions of tourism and the visitor economy to the overall economic prosperity of County Durham as a work programme priority for 2023/24. At a special joint meeting of the EEOC and ESCOC on 3rd November 2023, members received a report and presentation which set out the purpose and process of the draft Destination Management Plan (DMP). The plan set out a blueprint for growth and development of the visitor economy within County Durham, identifying challenges, gaps and opportunities for a successful sustainable visitor economy with prioritised actions. The committee were invited to provide comment on the draft DMP before its consideration by Cabinet.

The committee meeting was followed by a facilitated workshop supported by officers from Visit County Durham where members were invited to consider and comment on two questions - How can we sustainably enhance the overall visitor experience in our area, including accommodation, attractions, and amenities? and What are the key strengths and unique selling points of our destination that can be leveraged to attract more visitors? The areas and issues identified by members would inform the ongoing development of the Tourism offer within the County.

19 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&S OSC)

Chair Councillor Bev Coult
Vice Chair Councillor Jonathan Elmer

(a) Management of the Council's Woodland Estate and the Tree Policy

At the Committee's meeting on 21 July 2023 members received an update on the management of Council-owned woodland and its tree planting programmes. Information was provided on the main themes of the work, including woodland creation, woodland restoration and active management, improving access to woodlands, working with young people to encourage them to consider a career in the forestry sector and supporting community groups to manage their local woodlands.

There were concerns identified by members around the future funding of woodland management and tree planting.

Members also considered the County Council's approach to managing trees in its ownership, under its management and trees in private ownership that pose a safety risk to the public. The current policy was under review having been approved by Cabinet in July 2014, following a public consultation exercise. Members noted that a more proactive programme of tree inspections is being developed by the Council and would be embedded within the Tree Management Policy.

(b) Street Lighting Energy Reduction (SLERP) Project

In October 2023, members received an update report and presentation in respect of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction (SLERP) Project providing detail on retrofit installations, the proposed final SLERP 3 project and the data regarding energy savings, carbon reduction and financial costs associated in relation to the project. Members noted that the SLERP project has been the biggest single contributor to date to the reduction in the Council's Carbon emissions with energy savings of up to 54% compared with previous installations. This generates annual revenue savings of £1.2m per year over a 25 year period.

SLERP 3 is the final element of the project which will convert 1900 street lights and commenced in September 2023 and is projected to be completed in March 2025. It was reported that at the conclusion of SLERP 3, 3500 street lanterns will remain outstanding and will be converted as part of the ongoing Capital preplacement programme.

(c) Ecological Emergency Action Plan

The Committee have worked closely with Cabinet in respect of the Council's declaration in April 2022 of an ecological emergency and the development and adoption of an Ecological Emergency Action Plan (EEAP) which sets out how council services should respond to the issue. Its purpose is to review and revise the management of council land assets and put in place activities to promote and achieve best ecological practice.

The Committee have agreed as part of its work programme for 2023/24 that it will monitor progress against the EEAP to enable them to consider and review this progress against the key actions within the Plan.

At its meeting on 24 November 2023, members considered the latest progress update which set out actions planned and delivered against the key themes of Land Management; Education Awareness and Communication; Policies and Strategies. Members noted that the plan has key links to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and that improvements and actions delivered against the plan must be within the current resource envelope. Members noted the good progress made to date with 14 areas of action being progressed across Council Services.

20 Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC)

Chair Councillor Phil Heaviside
Vice Chair Councillor Joyce Charlton

(a) Safe Durham Partnership ASB Group Update

The Committee have agreed that regular update reports from the Safe Durham Partnership ASB Group are considered by members following adoption of the SDP ASB earlier this year. In June 2023, the Committee received information regarding the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and at its September meeting members received further detail of how these actions sit alongside those within the SDP ASB strategy. Members noted that County Durham and Darlington had been agreed as one of 16 ASB trailblazer pilots with funding provided directly to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. To progress the pilot initiative an ASB Action Plan is being formulated by the OPCC with involvement from key partners within the ASB Strategic Group. In addition, funding bid proposals are currently being prepared for further consideration by the OPCC to support the delivery of the Action Plan.

(b) Civil Contingency Planning and Storm Arwen Review

In May 2022, the Committee considered a report and presentation on civil contingency and emergency planning arrangements and a review of the response to Storm Arwen. The Committee was consulted on the draft Storm Arwen improvement plan and its comments were provided to Cabinet when it considered the plan at its meeting of 13 July 2022.

In accordance with the SSCOSC Work programme for 2023/24, an update report detailing progress against the Storm Arwen Improvement Action plan was considered by members on 7 September 2023. Members noted that of the 27 improvement actions against the six key themes - twenty improvement actions have been completed; six have commenced and are still in progress; and one has yet to start, in the

main because it is contingent on other work. Over 40 communities across County Durham have responded to the Council's offer of support to develop local community resilience plans.

(c) Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

On 2 November 2023, the Committee received a report and presentation setting out key progress against the Safe Durham Partnership's statutory duties contained within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The presentation sets out the steps that the Council and its partners were taking to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it; prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support and finally work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Members noted the "Channel" initiative which adopts a multi-agency approach to identifying and supporting individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The report also highlighted the County Durham Contest Board's responsibility for developing and delivering the strategic Delivery Plan. It was reported that the arrangements within County Durham and Darlington were considered examples of best practice regionally and nationally.

Background Papers

Reports and minutes (June – November 2023)

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
- Adults, Wellbeing and Health OSC
- Children and Young People OSC
- Economy and Enterprise OSC
- Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC
- Safer and Stronger Communities OSC

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published in May 2019 stated that to maintain the interest of full council in the work of the scrutiny committee, authorities should take steps to ensure full council is informed of the work the scrutiny committee is doing.

The council must have regard to the statutory guidance when determining its scrutiny arrangements and have good reasons for not following any aspects of the guidance

Finance

None

Consultation

The statutory role of some scrutiny committees means that consultations are regularly considered.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

All scrutiny reviews are subject to an equality impact assessment

Climate Change

The council has declared a climate emergency and scrutiny committees such as the Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC receive regular reports on the commitment to contribute to reducing the causes of climate change and the implications of responding to and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change. Any climate change implications will be included in individual reports to the appropriate scrutiny committee.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

Any crime and disorder implications will be included in individual reports to the appropriate scrutiny committee.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None

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