

County Council

29 October 2014



Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

**Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic
Services**

Councillor Simon Henig, Lead of Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the draft review of polling districts and places to the Council for approval.

Background

2. Under Section 18, the Representation of the People Act 1983, every constituency shall be divided into polling districts and there should be a polling place designated for each polling district.
3. It is the duty of the Council to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of Parliamentary Elections and to designate the polling places for those districts. It is also the duty of the Council to keep the polling districts polling places under review in accordance with the following rules:-
 - The Council shall exercise its powers with a view to giving all electors such reasonable facilities for voting as is practicable in the circumstances (and in particular, they shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, designate as polling places, only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled);
 - Each parish community shall, in the absence of special circumstances, be a separate polling district or districts;
 - The polling place for any polling district shall be an area in that district, except where special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the polling district, and shall be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach that stage; and
 - A polling place need not be designated for any polling district, if the size and other circumstances of the district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electors or body.

4. Attached at Appendix 2 is the draft review of polling districts and polling places for submission to Council.
5. This draft is being produced after consultation exercises which lasted from 1 July to 29 August 2014. The Returning Officer consulted a number of groups and individuals including:-
 - Electors by 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;
 - Schools currently used as polling stations; and
 - All existing premises that are currently used as polling stations.
6. Officers have received a number of representations in relation to the proposals for polling stations and Members will note that many relate to schools. Some headteachers and parents have raised concerns about the proposed use of schools.
7. Officers have endeavoured to avoid using schools except as a last resort. This problem becomes more challenging as public buildings close and there is competition to use alternative venues, not only from the Returning Officer, but also for groups or communities running activities in buildings which could otherwise be used as polling stations.
8. The Returning Officer was aware of this rising difficulty and schools have been advised of all known electoral dates up to 2017 to enable headteachers, whose schools are used as polling stations, to plan their training days around this. This information is not provided as a way of directing schools to cooperate, but is intended to be helpful in circumstances where the Returning Officer's staff know that alternative venues are not practicable.
9. Officers have explored alternatives in cases where representations contents and the results of these explorations are within the body of the document.
10. On the 3 October, the Constitution Working Group approved the draft and agreed that it should be recommended to Council for adoption. It also agreed to recommend that the Head of legal and Democratic Services should have delegated authority to make changes to the polling places, if required in consultation with the Leader as Chairman of the Constitution Working Group

Recommendations and reasons

11. Council is asked to:-

- Approve the polling districts and places as set out in the review;
- Agree that the Head of legal and Democratic Services should have delegated authority to make changes to the polling places, if required in consultation with the Leader as Chairman of the Constitution Working Group

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – none specific within this report

Staffing – none specific within this report

Risk – none specific within this report

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – none specific within this report

Accommodation – none specific within this report

Crime and Disorder – none specific within this report

Human Rights – none specific within this report

Consultation – none specific within this report

Procurement – none specific within this report

Disability Issues – none specific within this report

Legal Implications – within the body of the report



Representation of the People Act 1983
Electoral Administration Act 2006
The Review of Polling District & Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections)
Regulations 2006

Review of polling districts and polling places

Recommendations to Council

If you have any comments or questions please contact:

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1. Review of polling districts and polling places in the Durham County Council area – Background Information and Progress to date

On 1 July 2014, the Electoral Registration Officer for Durham County Council began a review of the polling districts and polling places in the Durham County Council area. This was in respect of the duties placed upon the Council to undertake a review at this time, duties that are laid out in The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Having determined that a review was to take place, the Returning Officer was consulted and has made representations on existing and proposed polling arrangements. The Returning Officer's proposals were published and comments in relation to the review have also been invited from a range of consultees. These included parish councils, county councillors and political parties. Press releases were also issued. The consultation period lasted from Tuesday 1 July to Friday 29 August 2014.

The legislation requires that the consultation exercise must seek comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have disabilities. The Council's Equalities and Diversity Officer was therefore included among the consultees.

The remaining timetable for this review is as follows:

Constitution Working Group makes recommendations to Council
3 October 2014

Adoption by Council 3 December 2014

2. The Returning Officer's Proposals

The Returning Officer 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 ensured that electors had reasonable facilities for voting. Furthermore, in line with the Council's policies and statutory obligations, every attempt had been made to ensure that polling stations were accessible to electors who are disabled. Therefore, the proposals for change in this review have been kept to a minimum.

The Returning Officer took 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-terminous with existing parish ward or division boundaries;
- a polling station costs about £800 to hire, equip and staff for polling day (portable units used as polling stations can cost twice as much again to hire and maintain on the day).

3. Consultation Responses

At the beginning of the review, the Returning Officer consulted with a number of groups and individuals, including:

- Electors via notices on the council's website and in council buildings,
- County Councillors,
- Parish Councils,
- MP's,
- Disabled/ Access Organisations via the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer,
- Area Action Partnerships / Community Groups,
- Schools (only those currently used as polling stations),
- All existing premises that are currently used as polling stations

Following the close of the consultation period on 29 August 2014, several endorsements/comments had been received relating to specific polling stations which are summarized, considered and responded to in the body of the report.

Three 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 (SI No. 3304) 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.

Wherever possible officers work with the schools to utilise community rooms which allow the school to remain open. However in some cases this is not possible and the school is required to close.

The consultation documents were forwarded to the Disability Partnership which includes various representations from disability groups and individuals across the county but no feedback or any queries or concerns were made.

4. The Tables

Following a summary of the proposed changes and issues arising, the polling arrangements of each parliamentary constituency will be dealt with by constituency with each county electoral division separately thereafter. The tables show the existing polling arrangements in each polling district:

- the polling district identity letters
- the polling place for the district
- the polling station at that place
- the number of electors per polling districts on 1 July 2014
- disabled access.

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 :

No.	Polling District	Polling Place Affected	Proposal
1	BAUA	Barnard Castle East	St Mary's Parish Hall, Newgate be designated as the polling place for this polling district.
2	BAAD	Toronto	A mobile unit be used as a polling place within Toronto until such a time as a community venue becomes available
3	BAAA BABA	Central 1 Central 3	School Room at Elim Church be designated as the polling station for these polling districts.
4	BAJA BAJC	Toft Hill Ramshaw	Ramshaw Primary School be designated as the polling places for these polling districts
5	DLB2	Bell	Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace be designated as the polling place for this polling district
6	EAA	Heselden	The Workingmen's Club be designated as the polling place for this polling district
7	EAB EAC EAD	Sheraton Nesbitt Hutton Henry	Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School be designated as the polling place for these polling districts
8	NDVA	Greencroft	Annfield Plain Cricket Club be designated as the polling place for this polling district
9	NDMA NDMB	North Lodge No 1 North Lodge No 2	Mobile Units at the Wheatsheaf Car Park be designated as polling places for these polling districts
10	NDPB	Urpeth No 1	The Cherrytree Pub be designated as the polling place for this polling district
11	NDPD	Urpeth No 4	Mobile Unit at the Shepherd and Shepherdess be designated as the polling place for this polling district
12	NDNA	Pelton No 2	Perkinsville Methodist Church be designated as the polling place for this polling district
13	NWDEB	Shotley Bridge West	Shotley Bridge Junior Schoole be designated as the polling place for this polling district
14	NWDBA	Hobson	Burnopfield Community Centre be designated as the polling place for this polling district
15	NWDAC	Crookgate	Burnopfield Masonic Hall be designated as the polling place for this polling district
16	NWDGC	Belle Vue	Belle Vue Leisure Centre be designated as the polling place for this polling district
17	NWDUB	Crook North	Hartside Primary School be designated as the polling place for this polling district

18	NWDWA NWDWB	Wheatbottom Watergate	Communal Room at Wheatbottom be designated as the polling place for these polling districts
19	NWDJB	Delves Lane North	Delves Lane Community Bar be designated as the polling place for this polling district
20	NWDOA	Cornsay	Royal Oak, Cornsay Colliery be designated as the polling place for this polling district
21	NWDNB NWDNC NWDND	Willow Park Langley Park East Langley Park West	Miners Institute, Church Street be designated as the polling place for these polling districts
22	NWDNE	Ushaw	St Michaels RC Primary School (Sports Hall) , Esh be designated as the polling place for this polling district
23	NWDLC	Maiden Law	Lanchester Community Centre be designated as the polling place for this polling district
24	NWDQD NWDQE	Stanhope Stanhope	St Thomas Church hall be designated as the polling place for this polling district

Premises to be kept under review

No.	Polling Division	Polling Districts Affected	Premises to be reviewed
1	Various	Various	All Schools used as polling places
2	Consett North	NWDGC	Belle Vue Leisure – closure of existing premises and relocation of new premises within the new Consett Academy site

Bishop Auckland Constituency

Bishop Auckland Constituency

Barnard Castle East Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAAAA BAAAB BAAAC BAAAD BAAAE BAAAF BAAAG	Ingleton Headlam Langton Bolam Morton Tinmouth Hilton Wackerfield	Ingleton Village Hall, Ingleton*	372 38 24 78 10 42 46	Yes
BARA BARB BARD	Brignall Rokeby Egglestone Abbey	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron	38 77 12	Yes
BASB BASC BASD BASE	Ovington Barforth Hutton Magna Wycliffe with Thorpe	Ovington Village Institute, Ovington*	135 59 96 68	Yes
BASA BASF BASG	Barningham Hope Scargill	Barningham Village Hall, Barningham*	138 14 27	Yes
BAUA	Barnard Castle East	Woodleigh, Flatts Road	1298	Yes
BAVB BAVA2 BAWA2	Marwood Urban Barnard Castle East Barnard Castle East	Teesdale Leisure Centre, Strathmore Road*	165 753 6	Yes
BAXA BAXD	Westwick Whorlton	Whorlton Village Hall, Whorlton*	56 166	Yes
BAXB	Stainton	Stainton & Streatlam Village Hall, Stainton	384	Yes
BAXC	The Oval	Stainton Grove Community Centre, Stainton Grove	100	Yes
BAYA BAYB BAYC BAYD	Staindrop Cleatlam Raby Langleydale	Scarth Memorial Village Hall, Staindrop*	981 76 63 65	Yes
BAZA	Gainford	Montalbo Hall, Gainford*	1038	Yes
BAZB BAZC	Winston South Cleatlam	Winston Village Hall, Front Street*	284 68	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Woodleigh, Flatts Road, Barnard Castle was replaced for the European Parliamentary election by St Mary's Parish Hall, Newgate, Barnard Castle. It is proposed that the change of polling station be confirmed and that St Mary's Parish Hall, Newgate be designated as the polling station for the BAUA polling district.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

St Mary's Parish Hall, Newgate be designated as the polling station for the BAUA polling district.

Barnard Castle West Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BANA	Eggleston	Eggleston Village Hall, Eggleston*	339	Yes
BANB	Marwood Rural	Marwood Social Centre, Marwood*	162	Yes
BAOA	Forest	Forest (Roadside) Meth. Chapel, Forest in Teesdale*	133	Yes
BAOB	Middleton in Teesdale	Middleton in Teesdale Village Hall, Middleton in Teesdale*	927	Yes
BAOC	Newbiggin	Newbiggin & District Village Hall, Newbiggin in Teesdale*	115	Yes
BAPA	Romaldkirk	Reading Room, Romaldkirk*	155	Yes
BAPB	Hunderthwaite		103	
BAPC	Holwick	Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton*	75	Yes
BAPD	Lunedale		71	
BAPE	Mickleton		330	
BAQA	Cotherstone	Cotherstone Village Hall, Cotherstone*	429	Yes
BAQB	Briscoe		51	
BAQC	Lartington		115	
BARC	Boldron	Boldron Village Hall, Boldron	96	Yes
BARE	Bowes	Bowes & Gilmonby Village Hall, Bowes*	356	Yes
BARF	Gilmonby		30	
BATA	Startforth	Startforth Morritt C.E. Primary School (3111), High Startforth	748	Yes
BAVA1	Barnard Castle West	Methodist Hall (Scar Top), Scar Top, Barnard Castle* (Double Station)	342	Yes
BAWA1	Barnard Castle West		2042	

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Bishop Auckland Town Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAAA	Central 1	St Peters Church Hall, Princes Street, Bishop Auckland	521	Yes
BAAB	Central 2	Bishop Auckland Cricket Club, South Church Road*	1122	Yes
BAAC	Bishop Town	Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Market Place*	441	Yes
BAAD	Toronto	Mobile Unit (Peel Place), Toronto, Bishop Auckland	454	No
BABA	Central 3	St Peters Church Hall, Princes Street, Bishop Auckland	954	Yes
BABB	Central 4	Baptist Church Hall, Westfield Road Entrance, Cockton Hill*	1135	Yes
BABC	Central 5	St Annes CE Primary School (3123), Warwick Road	1652	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Following the closure of Toronto Community Centre it was necessary to site a mobile unit within the village to act as a polling station. The use of mobile units is a last resort as they provide poor accommodation as a polling station and no disabled access. However there are no alternative venues available within the village and the continued use of a mobile unit at Toronto is therefore supported.

St Peters Church Hall, Princes Street has been closed and can no longer be used as a polling station. As an emergency measure the School Room at The Elim Church was used as a polling station for the European Parliamentary election. Continued use of this venue is recommended.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A representation from the parent of a child at St Annes CE Primary School (3123), Warwick Road has been received relating to the continued use of the school as a polling station.

This issue is not new and has been addressed previously. Whilst the use of the school and the disruption to families and education is regrettable the polling district is wholly residential and the only alternative venue is another school. As one of the principles of polling station locations is to ensure continuity for the elector it is not reasonable to alternate use between the schools. The polling district has a large electorate and often attracts a high turnout. It is

not reasonable, nor in line with legislation, when the school is available to locate a mobile unit in this area.

The representation therefore, regrettably cannot be complied with.

Recommendations to Council :

The continued use of a mobile unit for polling district BAAD, Toronto; and

The change of venue for polling district BABA to the School Room, Elim Church be approved.

Coundon Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BACA BACD	Leeholme Leasingthorne Colliery	Coundon & Leeholme Community Centre, Leeholme Road*	574 102	Yes
BACB	Coundon Gate	Park Head Hotel, A La Carte Restaurant, New Coundon	111	Yes
BACC BACF	Coundon Westerton	Victoria Lane Academy Nursery (2009), Victoria Lane (Double Station)	1787 77	Yes
BACE	Binchester	Binchester Community Centre, Peel Street, Binchester*	219	Yes
BACG	Newfield	Queens Head Inn, Primrose Hill, Newfield	262	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Evenwood Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAIA	Etherley (West Auckland)	West Auckland Memorial Hall, Games Room, Darlington Road*	281	Yes
BAIB BAIC	Etherley & Toft Hill Witton	Toft Hill/ Etherley, Community Centre, Toft Hill	1404 194	Yes
BAJA BAJC	Toft Hill Ramshaw	The Bridge Inn, 1 Gordon Terrace, Ramshaw	45 188	No
BAJB	Evenwood	St Paul's Church Hall, Evenwood*	1372	Yes
BAJD	Lands	Lands Village Hall, Lands Bank*	158	Yes
BAKA	Cockfield	Lipscombe Hall, School Square, Cockfield*	1239	Yes
BALA	Butterknowle	Butterknowle Village Hall, Butterknowle*	608	Yes
BALB	Copley	Copley Village Hall, Copley*	395	Yes
BALC	Woodland	Woodland Village Hall, Woodland*	196	Yes
BAMA BAMB	Hamsterley South Bedburn	Hamsterley Village Hall, Hamsterley*	364 149	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Bridge Inn at Ramshaw closed in the run up to the European Parliamentary election and polling was moved to Ramshaw Primary School. The public house has a history of closures and in order to provide electors with a continuity of polling station it is proposed to designate Ramshaw Primary School as the polling station for polling districts BAJA and BAJC.

The polling station which does not have disabled access is recommended for change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Ramshaw Primary School as the polling station for polling districts BAJA and BAJC.

Ferryhill Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAAHB	Merrington	Kirk Merrington Community Centre, Front Street*	956	Yes
		<i>The rest of Ferryhill Division is detailed in the Sedgefield Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Kirk Merrington Community Centre have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Shildon and Dene Valley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAABA	Byerley 1	West Close, Supported Housing*	445	Yes
BAABB	Byerley 2	Harrison Close, Grouped Accommodation*	694	Yes
BAABC	Byerley 3	Timothy Hackworth Primary School (2438),	169	Yes
BAABD	Byerley 4	Byerley Road	1451	
BAACA	Sunnydale 1	Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Middridge Lane	925	Yes
BAACB	Sunnydale 2	Garbutt Close, Supported Housing	949	Yes
BAACB		Shildon People's Centre, 20 Main Street	465	Yes
BAACC	Eldon	Eldon Community Centre, Main Road, Eldon	275	Yes
BAADA	Thickley 1	Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Jubilee Road, Shildon*	2160	Yes
BAADB	Thickley 2	Mobile Unit (Dalton Cottages), 1-6 Dalton Cottages, Shildon	350	No
BADA	South Church	Methodist Church Hall (South Church),	229	Yes
BADB	South Church	Rosemount Road, South Church	317	
BADC	Eldon Lane	One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane	375	Yes
BADD	Auckland Park	Auckland Park Methodist Church Hall, Douglas Crescent, Auckland Park	879	Yes
BADE	Coundon Grange	Valley Methodist Church (Coundon Grange), Community Room, Coundon	209	Yes
BADF	Close House	Grange*	181	

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

The Head Teacher of Timothy Hackworth Primary School submitted a request that an alternative venue be considered instead of closing the school. She suggested the former "Friends Meeting House" which is near to the school. This building is now occupied by Highlea Care, a private company. Following a discussion with Highlea Care it is apparent that the layout of the building renders it unsuitable for use as a polling station. It is also not possible to insist that a private company allow their premises to be used for polling purposes. At present there are no known alternative venues suitable for use as a polling station within the polling district.

Shildon Town Council also requested that officers consider an alternative venue to Timothy Hackworth School. Legislation indicates that a polling station should be easily accessible to electors and ideally be within the polling district. As there are no known alternative venues within this polling district officers are unable to move the polling station at this time.

A School Governor also requested that we consider alternative venues and gave examples of the Library, Council Offices and Civic Hall. None of these buildings are within the polling district and are not suitable alternatives if the Council is to comply with the requirement that polling stations be easily accessible. Moving a polling station outside of the polling district boundaries may have a detrimental impact on turnout.

Since the last review Shildon People's Centre has become fully accessible for disabled persons

The mobile unit which does not have disabled access is within a polling district where there are no other available premises. The mobile unit has been used previously without complaint.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Spennymoor Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAAFC BAAGA	Spennymoor 3 Spennymoor 1	Oxclose Nursery School (1021), Ox Close Crescent (Double Station)	853 1367	Yes
BAAGA	Spennymoor 1	Spennymoor Town Hall, Spennymoor*	430	Yes
BAAGB	Spennymoor 2	St Pauls Centre Ltd, St Paul's Gardens* (Double Station)	2682	Yes
BAAHA	Middlestone	Middlestone Moor Community Centre, Albion Street (Double Station)	2785	Yes
BAAHC	Byers Green	Byers Green Village Hall, High Street	667	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

The Head Teacher of Oxclose Nursery School has submitted comments regarding the suitability of the school as a polling station. Issues relate to the number of chairs and tables available for staff, disruption to children and families and the need to remove personal details of the children before polling day.

The Council has recently procured polling booths that are stand alone and remove the need for tables. At a recent Town Council by-election in Spennymoor there proved to be sufficient chairs for staff.

The only other suitable venue in the polling district is Oxclose Primary School and officers use the Nursery School as they have less pupils and it causes the least disruption.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Tudhoe Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAAEA	Tudhoe 1	St Davids Church Hall, Tudhoe Lane*	687	Yes
BAAEA	Tudhoe 1	Tudhoe Community Centre, St David's Close	1085	Yes
BAAEB	Tudhoe 2	Durham County Council (Reception), Green Lane	1221	Yes
BAAFA	Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 1	Hartley Terrace, Spennymoor*	950	Yes
BAAFA	Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 1	King William Grange, Spennymoor* (Double Station)	1615	Yes
BAAFB	Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange 2	Spennymoor Youth & Community Centre, Rushmoor	804	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Councillor Foster requested consideration be given to using St Andrew's Church Hall for those electors who were displaced when Barnfield Day Centre closed. Those electors were allocated to King William Grange.

Contact has been made with St Andrews Church but they already rent out the hall on a Thursday evening for a slimming class which they do not wish to change. Officers are therefore unable to use the venue as a polling station.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

West Auckland Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAFA	Witton Park	Witton Park Village Hall, 20, Main Street, Witton Park*	475	Yes
BAFB	Escomb	Escomb Village Hall, High Escomb, Escomb* (Double Station)	2105	Yes
BAHA	St Helen Auckland	St Helen Auckland Parish Centre, St Helen Auckland* (Double Station)	2136	Yes
BAHB BAHC	West Auckland 1 West Auckland 2	West Auckland Memorial Hall, Games Room, Darlington Road* (Double Station)	1047 923	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Woodhouse Close Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
BAEA BAEB	St Andrews South Church	Cornwall Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham*	179 899	Yes
BAEC BAED	Central 6 Central 7	Cockton Hill Infant School (2434), McIntyre Terrace (Double Station)	1174 843	Yes
BAGA BAGD	Tindale Crescent Woodhouse Close 3	The Fit Healthy Gym, Aucklandgate Centre, Tindale Crescent (Double Station)	295 1580	Yes
BAGB	Woodhouse Close 1	Aclet Close Nursery School (1018), Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland	930	Yes
BAGC	Woodhouse Close 2	Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Walker Drive*	586	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A request has been received from the Head Teacher at Cockton Hill Infants School to find an alternative venue as a polling station due to the disruption to the pupils.

This part of Cockton Hill is highly residential and the only alternative venue within the polling district is Cockton Hill Junior School. It is considered that the least disruption will occur if we continue to use the Infants School as a polling station. It will not be possible at this time to change the venue within this polling district.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

City of Durham Constituency

City of Durham Constituency

Belmont Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DDA DDB1	Gilesgate Gilesgate West	Durham Gilesgate Primary School (2747), Communal Room (Double Station)	1202 590	Yes
DDC	Pelaw (West)	St Joseph`s RCVA Primary School (3489), Mill Lane	618	Yes
DDD	Pelaw (South)	Laurel Avenue Community Association, Adjacent Laurel Avenue Primary School*	559	Yes
DDE	Pelaw (East)	Pelaw View Centre, Hilda Avenue*	512	Yes
DOA	Belmont	St Thomas More R.C. School (3492), Thorndale Road (Double Station)	2894	Yes
DPA	Carrville	Carrville Methodist Church Hall, High Street*	2121	Yes
DPB	Gilesgate Moor	Durham Gilesgate Primary School (2747), Communal Room (Double Station)	2200	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Durham Gilesgate Primary School raised issues relating to signage and car parking and a meeting will be arranged now that term has recommenced. With these issues resolved there are no other objections to the schools use as a polling station as the school remains open with only part of it being used for polling.

The parent of a child at St Thomas More RC School suggested that the polling station be moved to Belmont Parish Hall on Broomside Lane. The Parish Hall has a full agenda of activities all day on Thursday's. In addition to this the venue is located on the boundary of the polling district whereas the School is located in the centre of the polling district. Moving venues would be detrimental to ease of access for electors and there is no guarantee that the Parish Hall would be willing to cancel all of the activities they currently hold on Thursdays.

The Head Teacher of St Joseph's RCVA Primary School has requested that an alternative venue be sought for polling. However there are no known alternatives within the polling district at present. The request therefore cannot be accommodated.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Brandon Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DQB	Langley Moor	Family Centre, Salvation Army Hall, High Street North*	1132	Yes
DQC	Meadowfield	St Johns Church (Meadowfield), John Street South, Meadowfield*	1655	Yes
DRA	Brandon	Murray Independent Methodist Church, Grove Road, Brandon* (Double Station) St Andrew's Methodist Church, Carr Avenue, Brandon* (Double Station)	4668	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Coxhoe Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DHA	Quarrington Hill	Quarrington Hill Community Centre, Front Street South*	534	Yes
DHB	East Hetton	Kelloe Primary School (2374), Front Street	744	Yes
DHC	Kelloe	Kelloe Primary School (2374), Front Street	391	Yes
DHD	Cornforth Lane	Lansdowne Community Centre, 64 Lansdowne House, Coxhoe	569	Yes
DHE	Coxhoe	Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street, Coxhoe*	2238	Yes
DIA	Cassop	Cassop Community Centre, Front Street*	393	Yes
DIB	Bowburn (South)	Mobile Unit (Park Avenue), Opp. 121/123 Park Avenue, Coxhoe	576	No
DIC	Tursdale	Unit S4 (Tursdale), Tursdale Business Park	45	Yes
DID	Bowburn (North)	Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace, Bowburn*	2417	Yes
DIE	Bowburn (Central)	Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road	648	Yes
DIF	Croxdale	Croxdale Communal Hall, Rear Rogerson Terrace	539	Yes
DIG	Hett	Hett Village Hall, Hett Village*	191	Yes
DLB2	Bell	Marlene Avenue Community Centre, Marlene Avenue, Bowburn	240	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Marlene Avenue Community Centre has been converted into housing. As a result at the European Parliamentary election the electors from the polling district DLB2 were moved to Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace, Bowburn. This has proved to be acceptable and it is proposed that Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace, Bowburn be designated as the polling station for polling district DLB2.

The mobile unit at Park Avenue Coxhoe does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Recommended that Church Hall of Christ the King, Bede Terrace, Bowburn be designated as the polling station for polling district DLB2.

Deerness Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DMA	Bearpark	Bearpark Community Centre, Bearpark*	1636	Yes
DSA	Ushaw	St Lukes Church Hall, Ushaw Moor, Durham*	717	Yes
DSB	Ushaw Moor	Ushaw Moor Catholic Club, Off Broom Lane, Ushaw Moor*	1621	Yes
DSC	Broompark	Downstairs Activity Room, Deerness Gymnastics Academy, Old Sports Centre *	1047	Yes
DSD	New Brancepeth	New Brancepeth Village Hall, Rock Terrace, New Brancepeth	957	Yes
DTA	Esh Winning	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RCVA Primary (3483), Durham Road	1234	Yes
DTB	Waterhouses No 1	Esh Winning Primary School (2497), The Library	1104	Yes
DTC	Waterhouses No 2	Waterhouses Village Hall, Station Street, Waterhouses*	367	Yes
		<i>The remaining two polling districts which make up the Deerness Division are in the North West Durham Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Durham South Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DGA3	The Howlands	The Lindisfarne Centre, St Aiden's College* (Double Station)	1379	Yes
DGB	Elvet (South)	Shincliffe Village Church Hall, High Street North*	48	Yes
DLA	Shincliffe	Shincliffe Village Church Hall, High Street North*	293	Yes
DLB1	High Shincliffe	Shincliffe C.E. (Controlled) Primary School (3167), Beal Walk	1002	Yes
DLC	Sherburn/Whitwell House	The Library (Sherburn Hospital), Beddell House, Sherburn Hospital*	115	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Elvet & Gilesgate Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DCB	Framwelgate (South)	St Nicholas Church Hall, (Lower), Market Place* (Double Station)	232	Yes
DCD	Crossgate (Lower)	The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham* (Double Station)	1240	Yes
DDB2	Gilesgate (West) 1	St Giles Church Hall, St Giles Church	549	Yes
DEA	St Nicholas	St Nicholas Church Hall, (Lower), Market Place* (Double Station)	2862	Yes
DGA1	Elvet	St Oswalds Institute, Church Street*	1981	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Esh and Witton Gilbert Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DMB	Witton Gilbert	Cooper Hall, Witton Gilbert (Double Station)	2098	Yes
		<i>The remainder of Esh and Witton Gilbert Division falls within the North West Durham Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comment/observations received.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Framwellgate and Newton Hall Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DAA	Newton Hall North	All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall* (Double Station)	1182	Yes
		Finchale Primary School (2748), Canterbury Road (Double Station)	1392	Yes
DBA	Newton Hall South	Finchale Primary School (2748), Canterbury Road (Double Station)	2080	Yes
		All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall* (Double Station)	1039	Yes
DCA2	Framwelgate	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street*	71	Yes
DNA	Brasside	Mobile Unit (Brasside) Prison Officers Club Car Park	425	No
DNB	Pity Me	Woodbine Road Community Centre, Woodbine Road, Pity Me	960	Yes
		Abbey Leisure Centre, Abbey Road	670	Yes
DNC	Framwellgate Moor	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street*	2135	Yes
DND	Framwellgate Moor No 1	All Saints Church (Newton Hall), Carr House Drive, Newton Hall*	509	Yes
DNE	Framwellgate Moor No 2	Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, Front Street*	424	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A petition has been submitted by Framwellgate Moor and Newton Hall Branch Labour Party requesting the use of Finchale Primary School be replaced by a mobile unit. The petition has been signed by 45 parents.

As can be seen Finchale Primary School hosts polling stations for the Newton Hall North and Newton Hall South polling districts, both of which have large electorates. The council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled. Moving the polling station from Finchale Primary School to a mobile unit would compromise both of

these requirements. The request in the petition cannot therefore be reasonably complied with.

The mobile unit at Brasside does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Neville's Cross Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DCA1	Framwelgate	St Leonard`s Catholic School (4691), (School Hall)	1411	Yes
DCC	Crossgate	The Spiritualist Church Hall (Durham), John Street, Durham* (Double Station) St Johns Church Hall (Nevilles Cross), Crossgate Peth*	1814 427	Yes
DFA	Neville's Cross (North)	St Johns Church Hall (Nevilles Cross), Crossgate Peth*	1650	Yes
DFB	Neville's Cross (South)	The Pavilion (Merryoaks), Lowes Barn Playing Field, Merryoaks	1147	No
DGA2	Elvet Hill	Lindisfarne Centre, St Aidans College* (Double Station)	1416	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A request has been received from the Head Teacher of St Leonard's Catholic School to remove the designation of polling station from the school.

The reasons cited for the request are:-

- the loss of the main assembly hall or gymnasium severely constrains the schools ability to function fully;
- the use as a polling station compromises the ability of the school in relation to child protection;
- allowing access to electors on polling day gives a mixed message to the public about rights of way across the school ground (of which there are none)

The School does not close when being used as a polling station, there is a separate entrance to the main assembly hall which is the designated polling station.

All schools designated as polling stations have been given advance notice of all planned major elections up to 2017 to allow them to plan for polling station activities. When notice was given it was suggested that they may wish to plan training days on known election days to prevent disruption to pupils' education.

The use of a separate entrance to access the polling station should prevent child protection issues and an additional poll clerk is allocated to this venue to ensure that electors access and leave the premises appropriately.

Taking the above into consideration, together with the fact that there is no suitable alternative venue within the polling district, with regret it is not reasonably practicable to comply with the Head Teacher's request.

The Pavillion at Merryoaks does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Sherburn Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DJA	Pittington	Pittington Village Hall, The Crossroads, High Pittington*	1084	Yes
DJB	Littletown	Pittington Village Hall, The Crossroads, High Pittington*	117	Yes
DJC	West Rainton	Jubilee Hall, North Street, West Rainton*	1955	Yes
DKA	Sherburn Hill	Salvation Army Hall (Sherburn Hill), Front Street*	790	Yes
DKB	Shadforth	Shadforth Village Hall, Southside	345	Yes
DKD	Sherburn Village	Sherburn Village Community Centre, Front Street	1870	Yes
		Attlee Square Communal Hall, Attlee Square	658	

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A suggestion has been made that the polling station at Jubilee Hall, West Rainton be relocated to West Rainton Primary School in order to save money.

This is not actually the case. Schools are reimbursed for lighting, heating and caretaking costs and presently the fees charged by Jubilee Hall, West Rainton are less than the reimbursement made to schools. In addition to this it is preferable to use a suitable community venue rather than disrupt children's education.

The suggestion cannot be supported.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Trimdon and Thornley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DKC	Ludworth	Ludworth Community Centre, 2 North View*	505	Yes
		<i>The remainder of Trimdon and Thornley Division is in the Sedgefield Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Ludworth Community Centre have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Willington and Hunwick Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
DQA	Brancepeth	Brancepeth Village Hall, The Village*	356	Yes
		<i>The remainder of Willington and Hunwick Division is in the North West Durham Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Brancepeth Village Hall have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Easington Constituency

Easington Constituency

Blackhalls Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EAA	Hesleden	Hesleden Community Centre, Front Street, Hesleden	595	Yes
EAB EAC EAD	Sheraton Nesbitt Hutton Henry	Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School, Hutton Henry	90 7 396	No
EAE	Castle Eden	Castle Eden Village Hall, Stockton Road, Castle Eden*	509	Yes
EBA	Blackhall Colliery	Blackhall Resource Centre, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery	2338	Yes
EBB	Blackhall Rocks No 1	St Joseph's Church Hall, Coast Road, Blackhall	762	Yes
EBC	Blackhall Rocks No 2	Kasko House, Marine Crescent, Blackhall Rocks	970	No
		<i>The remaining polling district which makes up the Blackhalls Division is in the Sedgfield Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Hesleden Community Centre has now closed and following a suggestion from Monk Hesleden Parish Council, arrangements have now been made to use The Workingsmen's Club, Hesleden instead. The stations which do not have disabled access are within small polling districts which have no other available premises – they have been used previously without complaint.

Hutton Henry Church Hall building had been condemned prior to the European Parliamentary election and polling was moved to Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School. In order to provide electors with a continuity of polling station it is proposed to designate Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School as the polling station for polling districts EAB, EAC and EAD. Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used at the European Parliamentary election without complaint.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Castle Eden Village Hall have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate The Workingsmen's Club, Hesleden as the polling station for polling districts EAA.

Designate Hutton Henry Church of England Primary School as the polling station for polling districts EAB, EAC and EAD.

Dawdon Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EOA	Dawdon No 1	Parkside Community Centre, Seaham	1199	Yes
EOB	Dawdon No 2	Seaham Trinity Primary School, Princess Road, Seaham	1248	Yes
EOC	Dawdon No 3	Ropery Walk Primary School, Ropery Walk, Seaham	602	Yes
EOD	Dawdon No 4	Dawdon Community Centre, Queen Alexandra Road, Seaham*	1230	Yes
EQB	Seaham Harbour No 2	St Mary Magdalene Parish Hall, Harbour Walk, Seaham	985	Yes
EQC	Seaham Harbour No 3	Seaham Salvation Army Hall, 4 Tempest Road, Seaham	415	Yes
EQD	Seaham Harbour No 4	St John's Church Hall, Church Street, Seaham*	748	No

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A email was received from Councillor Sue Morrison who has received a complaint from a parent who was aggrieved as she had been denied permission to remove her child from school for one day for a holiday, yet the school close for admistrative purposes.

It was suggested that as St John's Church Hall does not have disabled access, that the polling station be moved to the Customer Access Point across the road. Unfortunately, after inspection of the premises, there is not an available room which could be used as a polling station.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Deneside Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EPA EPB	Dalton Urban Deneside No 1	Eastlea Community Centre, Stockton Road, Seaham*	1047 889	Yes
EPC	Deneside No 2	All Saints Church, Dalton Avenue, Seaham*	2138	Yes
ERB2	Seaham North No 1b	Byron House, Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham	364	Yes
ERD	Seaham North No 3	Mitchells, West Grove, Seaham*	1297	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Easington Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
ELA	Easington Colliery No 1	Church of the Ascension Hall, Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery	2094	Yes
ELB	Easington Colliery No 2	Healthworks Building, Paradise Lane, Easington Colliery	1658	Yes
EKB	Easington Village No 1	Seaton Holme, Hall Walk, Easington Village*	789	Yes
EKC	Easington Village No 2		984	
EKA	Hawthorn	Hawthorn Community Centre, Hawthorn, Seaham*	423	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Comments were received from Easington Village Parish Council regarding the fact that there is only one polling station in Easington Village. The village did in the past have another polling station at Lee House but this closed some time ago. The electors were then moved to Easington District Council offices, which then also closed. The electors now all vote at Seaton Holme as there is no other premises available.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Hornden Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EGA	Hornden South No 1	Hornden Salvation Army Hall, Dene Street, Hornden*	850	Yes
EGB	Hornden South No 2	Yohnden Primary School, Windsor Terrace, Hornden	1944	Yes
EHA	Hornden North No 1	Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School, Thorpe Road, Hornden	1364	Yes
EHB	Hornden North No 2	Mobile Unit – Grants Houses, Hornden	341	No
EHC	Hornden North No 3	Hornden Social Centre, Hornden Parish Council Offices, Seventh Street, Hornden*	1783	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

A mobile unit is used in the Grants Houses area as there are no other appropriate premises available in the area and due to their design, they have limited access. The only alternative would be to move the electors to the polling station at Our Lady Star of the Sea, approximately half a mile away but this has had some resistance in the past.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Murton Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
ENA	Dalton Village	Dalton le Dale Parish Hall, The Dene, Dalton le Dale	240	Yes
EMA	Murton West No 1	New Hesledon Social Club, Wellfield Road, Murton	1885	Yes
EMB EMC ENB	Murton West No 2 Murton West No 3 Murton East No 1	Murton Community Primary School, Barnes Road, Murton*	44 508 1700	Yes
ENC	Murton East No 2	The Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton*	1165	Yes
END	Murton East No 3	MacRae House, Seaview Walk, Murton*	310	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Passfield Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EDA	Passfield No 1	Oakerside Community Centre, Oakerside Drive, Peterlee (Double Station)	2585	Yes
EDB1	Passfield No 2a	Helford Road Pavilion, Helford Road, Peterlee	1077	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments or observations were received.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Peterlee East Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
ECA	Dene House	Dene House Primary School, Manor Way, Peterlee (Double Station)	2987	Yes
EIA	Eden Hill	East Durham Trust, Community House, Yoden Road, Peterlee (Double Station)*	2760	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

East Durham Trust have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

The Head Teacher at Dene House Primary asked that we consider portable accommodation in the near by housing estate as closing the whole school, in his opinion was outrageous. He commented at the fact that 1500 hours of per-pupil teaching time is lost per day and that parents are inconvenienced and left out-of-pocket due to child-minding fees.

This issue is not new and has been addressed previously. Whilst the use of the school and the disruption to families and education is regrettable the polling district is wholly residential with no other suitable locations available. The polling district has a large electorate and it is not reasonable, nor in line with legislation, when the school is available to locate a mobile unit in this area.

The representation cannot, with regret be complied with.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Peterlee West Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EDB2	Passfield No 2b	Helford Road Pavilion, Helford Road, Peterlee	126	Yes
EDC	Passfield No 3	East Durham College, Peterlee Campus, Willerby Grove, Peterlee	707	Yes
EFA	Howletch	Howletch Lane Primary, Pennine Drive, Peterlee (Double Station)	2686	Yes
EJA	Acre Rigg	Acre Rigg Academy, Acre Riff Road, Peterlee (Double Station)*	2977	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Acre Rigg Academy have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Seaham Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EQA	Seaham Harbour No 1	Earl House Community Centre, Earl Street, Seaham	2028	Yes
ERB1	Seaham North No 1a	Byron House, Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham*	1140	Yes
ERC	Seaham North No 2	St Mary Magdalene Parish Hall, Harbour Walk, Seaham*	1253	Yes
ERA	Seaton	Seaton Community Association Hall, Seaton Village, Seaham*	1057	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Shotton & South Hetton Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EEB	Haswell	The Hazelwell Centre, Windsor Terrace, Haswell	1140	Yes
EEC	Shotton No1	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, Fleming Field, Shotton Colliery	668	Yes
EED	Shotton No 2	Shotton Library, Co-operative Terrace, Shotton Colliery*	1001	Yes
EEE	Shotton No 3	Shotton Community Centre, Back of Bridge Road, Shotton Colliery	1814	Yes
EKD	South Hetton	Robin Todd Centre, Front Street, South Hetton*	2299	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Trimdon & Thornley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
EEA	Haswell Plough	The Gables Hotel, 59 Front Street, Haswell Plough*	346	Yes
		<i>The remainder of the Trimdon & Thornley Division is covered in the Sedgefield Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

The Gables Hotel have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

North Durham Constituency

North Durham Constituency

Annfield Plain Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDUA	West Kyo	Annfield Plain Library, North Road,	784	Yes
NDVD	Fines Park	Catchgate *	622	
NDUB	Hare Law	St Thomas' Church Community Room, Hare Law*	843	Yes
NDUC	Catchgate	Catchgate Primary School, Blackett Street, Catchgate	851	Yes
NDVA	Greencroft	Annfield Plain Cricket Club, Greencroft Enterprise Park, Greencroft	525	Yes
NDVB	Clavering	West Road Communal Hall, West Road, Annfield Plain	714	Yes
NDVC	St Aidan's	Annfield Plain Methodist Church Hall, Railway Street, Annfield Plain *	1017	Yes
NDVE	New Kyo	Kyo Laws Methodist Church, Shield Row Lane, New Kyo	755	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The future of Greencroft Community Centre was uncertain and the premises eventually closed so arrangements were made to use Annfield Plain Cricket Club which was situated close by.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Annfield Plain Cricket Club as the polling station for polling district NDVA.

Chester le Street East Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDCA	Chester East No 1	Parish Centre, Church Chare, Chester le Street *	580	Yes
NDCB NDCC	Chester East No 2 Chester East No 3	Red Rose Primary School, York Terrace (Double Station)	1143 973	Yes
NDLC1	Chester North No 3	TAVR Centre, Picktree Lane, Chester le Street	383	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

A request was received from Councillor Lawson Armstrong regarding the polling station at Red Rose Primary School. Electors from two polling districts vote at this double station. He would like to have another polling station situated across the road in the Relton Terrace area – unfortunately, this is a tightly populated residential area and there are no premises available there nor the adequate space needed to locate a mobile station.

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Chester le Street North Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDLA	Chester North No 1	Chester le Street Community Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester le Street *	837	Yes
NDLB	Chester North No 2	Holyoake Communal Hall, South Pelaw, Chester le Street * South Pelaw Infant School	2268	Yes Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Chester le Street South Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDFC	Edmondsley & Waldrige No 3	Chester Moor Communal Hall, The Crescent, Chester Moor	207	Yes
NDJA	Chester South	Mobile Unit – Garden Farm Shops Car Park (Double Station)	2552	No
NDFA	Edmondsley & Waldrige No 1	Waldrige Parish Rooms, Poplar Street, Waldrige	212	Yes
NDFB	Edmondsley & Waldrige No 2	The Hermitage Academy (Sixth Form Centre) (Double Station)	3156	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Mobile units are used at the Garden Farm Shops area as this is a tightly populated residential area with no other suitable premises available which could be used as a polling station. Due to their design and structure they have limited access. Arrangements have now been made with The Hermitage Academy to use their Sixth Form Centre as a polling station instead of siting mobile units in the car park.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments or observations were received.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Chester le Street West Central Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDHA	Pelton Fell No 1	Pelton Fell Bowls Pavilion, Pelton Fell Park*	143	Yes
NDHB	Pelton Fell No 2	The Brockwell Centre, Craghead Road, Pelton Fell*	1149	Yes
NDIA NDKB	Chester West No 1 Chester Central No 2	Bullion Hall, Bullion Lane, Chester le Street*	588 1410	Yes
NDIB	Chester West No 2	Gibside Communal Hall, Gibside, Chester le Street*	1340	Yes
NDIC	Chester West No 3	Mobile Unit – Cragside, Chester le Street*	795	No
NDKA	Chester Central No 1	Chester le Street Library, Station Road, Chester le Street*	645	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change. Mobile units are used in the Cragside area as this is a tightly populated residential area with no other suitable premises available which could be used as a polling station. Due to their design and structure they have limited access.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Craghead & South Moor Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDQA	The Middles	Craghead Village Hall, Craghead*	974	Yes
NDQB	Craghead	Spiritualist Church, Front Street, Craghead*	682	Yes
NDQC	Burnside	Burnside Resource Centre, Mendip Terrace, South Stanley	673	Yes
NDWA	Oxhill North	Oxhill Nursery School, Oxhill	353	Yes
NDWB	South Moor West	South Moor Methodist Church, Park Road/The Haven, Park Road, South Moor*	2275	Yes
NDWC	Quaking Houses	Quaking Houses Community Centre, Second Street, Quaking Houses*	598	Yes
NDWD	Hustledown East	St Marys RC Primary School, South Stanley	182	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Lumley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDA A	Bournmoor No 1	Lambourne Close Communal Hall, Lambourne Close, Bournmoor* At Barnabus Church Hall, Bournmoor	1666	Yes Yes
NDB A	Lumley No 1	Great Lumley Community Centre, Front Street, Great Lumley (Double Station)*	2936	Yes
NDB B	Bournmoor No 2	Woodlea Primary School – Nursery Unit, Woodstone Village, Fencehouses	564	Yes
NDB B	Lumley No 2	Fencehouses Community Centre, Woodstone Village, Houghton le Spring*	718	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

North Lodge Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDLC2	Chester North No 4	TAVR Centre, Picktree Lane, Chester le Street	411	Yes
NDMA	North Lodge No 1	Mobile Unit – Wheatsheaf Car Park	1969	No
NDMB	North Lodge No 2	Mobile Unit – Wheatsheaf Car Park	565	No

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Lambton Worm Pub closed so the car park became unavailable to site the mobile units so they were moved to the car park at the Wheatsheaf.

Mobile units are used as there are no other suitable premises available in the area and this is a large enough area to locate the units, however, due to their design and structure, they have limited access.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments or observations were received.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate the Mobile Units at the Wheatsheaf as the polling stations for polling districts NDMA and NDMB.

Pelton Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Elector s	Disabled Access
NDNA NDNE	Pelton No 2 Pelton No 1	Pelton Community Centre, Front Street, Pelton (Double Station)	1276 7	Yes
NDNB NDNC NDND	Pelton No 3 Pelton No 4 Pelton No 5	Roseberry Primary & Nursery School, Pelton Lane Ends	665 88 209	Yes
NDGA NDGC	Grange Villa & West Pelton No2 Grange Villa & West Pelton No 4	Grange Villa Community Centre, East Street, Grange Villa*	614 18	Yes
NDGB NDGD	Grange Villa & West Pelton No 3 Grange Villa & West Pelton No 1	West Pelton Methodist Church, West Pelton	180 363	Yes
NDOA NDOB	Ouston No 1 Ouston No 2	Ouston Community Centre, Iris Crescent, Ouston (Double Station)	1077 1156	Yes
NDNA NDOC	Pelton No 2 Ouston No 3	Perkinsville Methodist Church*	2031 68	Yes
NDPA NDPC	Urpeth No 3 Urpeth No 2	Mobile Unit – Laurel Crescent, High Handenhold	78 240	No
NDPB	Urpeth No 1	The Cherrytree Pub, Bradley Close, Urpeth Grange* Mobile Unit – Redmires Close, Ouston	886 1063	Yes No
NDPD	Urpeth No 4	Mobile Unit – Shepherd & Shepherdess Car Park, Beamish	267	No

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Mobile units are used in these tightly populated residential area as there are no suitable premises available, however, due to their design and structure have limited access.

The electors who were allocated to the mobile unit which were originally sited at Bradley Close, Ouston have now been moved to The Cherrytree Pub.

The mobile unit which was originally sited in the car park opposite the Beamish Arms had to be moved as this site was no longer available – the mobile unit is now sited in the car park of the Shepherd and Shepherdess pub instead.

The Communal Room at Gairloch Close, Perkinsville closed so electors were moved to Perkinsville Methodist Church.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period:

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate The Cherrytree Pub as the polling station for polling district NDPB.

Designate the Mobile Unit at the Shepherd and Shepherdess as the polling station for polling district NDPD.

Designate Perkinsville Methodist Church as the polling station for polling district NDNA.

Sacrison Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDFD	Edmondsley & Waldrige No 4	Edmondsley Communal Hall, Jubilee Close, Edmondlse	440	Yes
NDDA	Kimbleworth & Plawsworth No 1	Kimbleworth & Plawsworth Community Centre, Front Street, Nettlesworth*	769	Yes
NDDB	Kimbleworth & Plawsworth No 2	Mobile Unit – Daisy Hill Club Car Park, Sacrison	240	No
NDEA	Sacrison No 1		220	
NDEB	Sacrison No 2		419	
NDEB	Sacrison No 2	Salvation Army Hall, Plawsworth Road, Sacrison	875	Yes
NDEB	Sacrison No 2	Fyndoune Community College, Main Entrance, Sacrison	540	Yes
NDEB	Sacrison No 2	The Fulworth Centre, Front Street, Sacrison (Double Station)	1990	Yes
NDDC	Kimbleworth & Plawsworth No 3	Kimbleworth Parish Church Hall*	282	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change. A mobile unit is now located in the car park of the Daisy Hill Club as the premises, which had previously been used as a polling station, has now closed. Mobile units are used as there are no other suitable premises available, however, due to their design and structure have limited access.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Stanley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDQD	Holly Hill	Burnside Resource Centre, Mendip Terrace, South Stanley	760	Yes
NDQE NDRB	Stanley Banks King's Head	Age Concern, Betjamin Close, East Stanley (Double Station)*	338 1820	Yes
NDQF	Hustledown West	St Marys RC School, South Stanley	736	Yes
NDRA	Towneley	Tyne Road Community Centre, Stanley*	1964	Yes
NDSA	Hill Top	East Stanley Methodist Church, Chester Road, Stanley	774	Yes
NDSB	No Place	Beamish Primary School, Co- operative Villas, No Place	279	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Tanfield Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NDSC	Shield Row	Shield Row Community House, Shield Row Gardens, Shield Row	1986	Yes
NDSD	Stanley Central	The Tommy Armstrong Centre, Clifford Road, Stanley	1351	Yes
NDTA	Good Street Estate	Tanfield School, Tanfield Lea Road, Tanfield Lea	374	Yes
NTDB	Tanfield Lea	Tanfield Lea Community Centre, Leith Gardens, Tanfield Lea*	1706	Yes
NDTC	White-le-Head	White-le-Head Methodist Church Hall, West Road, Tantobie*	431	Yes
NDTD	Tantobie	Tantobie Community Centre, The Playing Fields, South View, Tantobie*	548	Yes
NDTE	Tanfield	St Margarets Church Hall, Tanfield Village*	429	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

North West Durham Constituency

North West Durham Constituency

Benfieldside Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDCF NWDEA NWDEB	Snows Green Shotley Bridge East Shotley Bridge West	Shotley Bridge Junior School, Snows Green Road, Shotley Bridge	621 609 388	Yes
NWDEC	Benfieldside	Benfieldside Primary School, Moorlands, Blackhill (Double Station)	2083	Yes
NWDED NWDFB	Blackhill North No1 Blackhill North No2	Methodist Church Hall, Durham Road, Blackhill*	558 283	Yes
NWDFA NWDFC	Bridgehill St Marys	Blackhill Baptist Church Hall, New Pemberton Road, Blackhill (Double Station)*	1182 629	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Methodist Church Hall at Shotley Bridge has closed in recent year so electors have been moved to Shotley Bridge Junior School on Snows Green Road.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Shotley Bridge Junior School the polling station for polling district NWDEB.

Burnopfield & Dipton Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDBA NWDAA	Hobson Leazes	Burnopfield Community Centre, Leazes, Burnopfield (Double Station)*	295 2185	Yes
NWDAB NWDAC	Burnopfield Crookgate	Burnopfield Masonic Hall, Front Street, Burnopfield*	1088 458	No
NWDBB	Dipton	Dipton Community Centre, Front Street, Dipton	1249	Yes
NWDBC	Flint Hill	Prince of Wales Inn, Flint Hill*	985	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Community Centre at Crookgate closed in recent years and the electors from those polling districts were moved to polling stations in Burnopfield.

Burnopfield Masonic Hall does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Burnopfield Community Centre as the polling station for polling district NWDBA.

Designate Burnopfield Masonic Hall as the polling station for polling district NWDAC.

Consett North Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDFD	Blackhill South	Blackhill Community Centre, Derwent Street, Blackhill	1002	Yes
NWDFE	St Aidan's	Masonic Hall, Laburnum Avenue, Blackhill	718	Yes
NWDGA	Berry Edge East	Christ Church Consett, Parliament Street, Consett (Double Station)*	2859	Yes
NWDGB	Villa Real	Villa Real School, Villa Real Road, Consett	652	Yes
NWDGC	Belle Vue	Belle Vue Leisure Centre, Ashdale Road, Consett	871	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Prior to recent elections, Consett Rugby Clubhouse became unavailable due to renovation works taking place. Arrangements were made to use Belle Vue Leisure Centre as the polling station.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Belle Vue Leisure Centre is due to close in July 2015 and after that we will need to see if the new premises had adequate accommodation.

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Belle Vue Leisure Centre as the polling station for polling district NWDGC.

Consett South Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDIA	Moorside	St John's Church Hall, Chester Road, Moorside	1551	Yes
NWDIB	The Grove	Communal Road, Selby Gardens, The Grove	1126	Yes
NWDIC	Berry Edge West	Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett	303	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Councillor Hicks expressed concern that the polling station at Selby Gardens is at one end of the village and asked if an alternative station could be found in a more central location. Unfortunately, no other premises apart from the Primary School are available in the village at this time and officers wish to avoid using the school unless necessary.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Crook Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDTA	Fir Tree	Fir Tree Country Hotel, The Grove, Fir Tree	238	Yes
NWDTB	Howden	Howden-le-Wear Community Centre, Hargill Road, Howden-le-Wear	1214	Yes
NWDUB	Crook North	Hartside Primary School, Hartside, Crook	1023	Yes
NWDVA	Crook East	St Catherines Community Centre, Market Place, Crook (Double Station)	1226	Yes
NWDVB	Crook South		359	
NWDVC	Mown Meadows	Millfield Clubhouse, Crook Town AFC, West Road, Crook (Double Station)	2752	Yes
NWDWA	Wheatbottom	Communal Room, 20 Wheatbottom, Crook (Double Station)	929	Yes
NWDWB	Watergate		960	
NWDWC	Helmington Row	Helmington Row Village Hall, Helmington Row	307	No
NWDZA	North Bitchburn	Cricket Club House, North Bitchburn*	330	Yes
NWDZB	High Grange		130	

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Helmington Row Village Hall does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Following the community buildings review, the Communal Rooms at Bankfoot Grove and Park Avenue Close were closed so arrangements were made to use Hartside Primary School.

The Masonic Hall has been used in the past but in recent years was not available on the dates required so arrangements were made to use the Communal Room in Wheatbottom, which had been used in the past but had closed. The premises have now been taken over by Dale and Valley Homes and has been renovated.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Hartside Primary School as the polling station for polling district NWDUB.

Designate Communal Room, Wheatbottom as the polling station for polling districts NWDWA and NWDWB.

Deerness Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDOC	Esh Winning	Esh Winning Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning*	661	Yes
NWDOD	Hedleyhope	East Hedleyhope Village Hall, East Hedleyhope	136	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Delves Lane Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDHA	Consett East	Citizens House, Station Road, Consett	804	Yes
NWDHB NWDJC	Templetown South Templeton North	Gospel Hall, Front Street, Consett	983 174	Yes
NWDJA	Crookhall	Crookhall Community Centre, Second Street, Crookhall*	470	Yes
NWDJB	Delves Lane North	Delves Lane Community Bar, Gloucester Road, Delves Lane	2046	Yes
NWDJD	Delves Lane South	Delves Lane Village Hall, Delves Lane (Double Station)	1972	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Communal Room at Percy Gardens has now closed so the polling station has been moved to the Community Bar on Gloucester Road.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate the Community Bar as the polling station for polling district NWDJB.

Esh & Witton Gilbert Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDNA	Esh	St Michael's RC Primary School – Sports Hall, Front Street, Esh	314	Yes
NWDNE	Ushaw		27	
NWDNB	Wilow Park	Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park (Triple Station)*	100	Yes
NWDNC	Langley Park		1250	
NWDND	East Langley Park West		2012	
NWDNF	Quebec	Quebec Village Hall, Front Street, Quebec	183	Yes
NWDOA	Cornsay	Royal Oak, 1 Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery	74	No
NWDOB	Cornsay Colliery		144	
NWDOE	Satley	Satley Parish Hall, Satley	249	No

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The Royal Oak, Cornsay Colliery and Satley Parish Hall do not have disabled access. However they are located in areas where there are no suitable alternative premises. They have both been used previously without complaint.

Due to the unsuitability of a caravan as a polling station, in recent years electors from Cornsay Village were transferred to the polling station in Cornsay Colliery.

The Community Centre at Wood View closed this year so arrangements were made to use the Miners Institute on Church Street as the polling station.

Ushaw College was closed for a period so electors from NWDNE were transferred to St Michael's RC Primary School in Esh.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate the Royal Oak, Cornsay Colliery as the polling station for polling district NWDOA.

Designate the Miners Institute as the polling station for polling districts NWDNB, NWDNC and NWDND.

Designate St Michaels RC Primary School as the polling station for NWDNE.

Lanchester Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDKA	Castleside	Castleside Village Hall, Drover Road, Castleside*	1249	Yes
NWDKB	Muggleswick	Muggleswick Parish Hall, Muggleswick	100	Yes
NWDLA	Lanchester North	Lanchester Bowling Club, The Green, Lanchester*	778	Yes
NWDLB NWDLC	Lanchester East Maiden Law	Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester (Double Station)*	2515 153	Yes
NWDMA	Burnhope	Burnhope Primary School, Langley Avenue, Burnhope	1165	Yes
NWDMB	Holmside	Wardles Bridge Inn, Holmside	67	No

Returning Officer's Proposals :

Wardles Bridge Inn does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Due to the unsuitability of mobile units and following consultation with local councillors and Greencroft Parish Council, the electors from NWDLC were transferred to the polling station at the Community Centre in Lanchester.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Burnhope Parish Council and Councillor Ossie Johnson commented that they felt the current voting arrangements were adequate and could see no need for change at this time.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate Lanchester Community Centre as the polling station for polling district NWDLC

Leadgate & Medomsley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDCA	Ebchester	Ebchester Community Centre, Shaw Lane, Ebchester*	908	Yes
NWDCB	Hamsterley	Communal Room, Dene Court, Hamsterley	1102	Yes
NWDCC	The Dene	Mobile Unit – Recreation Ground, The Dene	308	No
NWDCD	Medomsley Edge	Pretoria Club, Corbridge Road, Medomsley Edge	254	Yes
NWDCE	Medomsley	Methodist Church Hall, Medomsley*	847	No
NWDDA	Leadgate South	Leadgate Community Centre, Back Plantation Street, Leadgate (Double Station)*	1881	Yes
NWDDB	Leadgate East	Leadgate Methodist Church, Tyne Avenue, Leadgate*	980	Yes
NWDDC	Bradley & Pont	Methodist Church Hall, Bradley Cottage, Leadgate	553	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change. The Methodist Church Hall, Medomsley does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

A mobile unit is used at The Dene as at present there are no other premises available in the village and due to the nature of their design and structure they have limited access.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

The community centre at The Dene, which had previously been used as a polling station before its closure, is currently in the process of being sold/transferred. However, it is not known if when sold, that the premises will continue to be a community building.

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Tow Law Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDSA	Sunniside	Sunniside Community Centre, Flag Terrace, Sunniside	280	Yes
NWDSB	Stanley	Community Hall, High Road, Stanley, Crook*	527	Yes
NWDSC	Billy Row	Communal Room, Stanley Way, Billy Row	623	Yes
NWDSD NWDSG	Tow Law Rural 1 Tow Law	Tow Law Community Centre, Ironworks Road, Tow Law *	36 1581	Yes
NWDSF	Tow Law Rural 3	Thornley Village Hall, Thornley	100	Yes
NWDSE NWDSG	Tow Law Rural 2 Tow Law	Baring Court, Tow Law	18 1581	Yes
NWDUA	Roddymoor	Garage at 14 Ivy Crescent, Roddymoor	368	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Weardale Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDPA	Ireshopeburn	The Institute, Front Street, Ireshopeburn	165	Yes
NWDPB	St Johns Chapel	Barrington Hall, Market Place, St Johns Chapel	372	Yes
NWDPC	Lanehead	Cowshill Hotel, Cowshill*	146	No
NWDPD	Wearhead	Wearhead Village Hall, 42 Front Street, Wearhead*	214	Yes
NWDPE	Westgate	Westgate Village Hall, Westgate8	303	Yes
NWDQA	Eastgate	Eastgate Village Hall, Eastgate	127	Yes
NWDQB	Frosterley	Frosterley Village Hall, 17 Front Street, Frosterley	680	Yes
NWDQC	Rookhope	Rookhope Village Hall, Rookhope*	239	Yes
NWDQD NWDQE	Stanhope	St Thomas' Church Hall, 40/42 Front Street, Stanhope (Double Station)	1115 372	Yes
NWDQF	Edmundbyers	Edmundbyers Village Hall, Edmundbyers*	150	Yes
NWDQG	Hunstanworth	Hunstanworth Village Hall, Hunstanworth*	95	No
NWDRA	Witton-le-Wear	Witton le Wear Community Centre, Witton le Wear	560	Yes
NWDRB	Wolsingham Urban	St Thomas Centre, Rectory Lane, Wolsingham (Double Station)*	1930	Yes
NWDRC	Thornley Rural	Thornley Village Hall, Thornley	58	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

The space allocated for polling purposes at the Town Hall in Stanhope became unsuitable so electors have been moved to St Thomas Church Hall.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

The Cowshill Hotel does not have disabled access. However it is located in an area where there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Hunstanworth Parish Council did comment that the Village Hall lacked certain amenities especially for disabled electors but at this moment they are not in a position to make any changes to the facility. This polling station has a small number of electors and there are no suitable alternative premises. It has been used previously without complaint.

Recommendations to Council :

Designate St Thomas Church Hall as the polling station for polling districts NWDQD and NWDQE.

Willington & Hunwick Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
NWDZC	Hunwick	Hunwick Primary School, Church Lane, Hunwick	1071	Yes
NWDXA NWDXE	Low Willington Page Bank	Willington Cricket Club, 1 Manor Road, Willington	1232 29	Yes
NWDXB NWDYA	Willington South Willington West	Willington Primary School, Chapel Street, Willington	999 1146	Yes
NWDXC	Rosedale	Methodist Church Hall, Wesley Street, Willington	624	Yes
NWDXD	Oakenshaw	Mobile Unit, Adjacent to Reed Avenue, Oakenshaw	472	No
NWDXF	Sunnybrow	Sunnybrow Primary School, Chapel Street, Sunnybrow/Sunnybrow Community Centre	803	Yes
NWDYB	Sunnybrow	Sunnybrow Community Centre	201	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change. A mobile unit is used at Oakenshaw as at present there are no other premises available in the village and due to the nature of their design and structure have limited access.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments or observations were received.

Recommendations to Council:

No change.

Sedgefield Constituency

Sedgefield Constituency

Aycliffe East Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SHA	Aycliffe Village	Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace, Aycliffe Village*	776	Yes
SHB	Neville	Methodist Church Hall (Newton Aycliffe), Greville Way, Newton Aycliffe*	1556	Yes
SIA	Shafto St Marys	Sugar Hill Primary School (2743), Juniors / Main Entrance	954	Yes
SIA	Shafto St Marys	Vane Road Primary School (2742), Vane Road	1672	Yes
SIB	Aycliffe Central	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane*	1623	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

The Head Teacher of Vane Road Primary School has submitted a request that the Council reconsider their use of schools as polling stations, in particular Vane Road. The reasons given are:-

- disruption to education for children
- the anomalous position at present whereby parents are fined for removing children from school for holidays yet the Council can require the school to close for polling day
- financial cost to the school in relation to the time teachers lose

The area has been visited and unfortunately there are no suitable alternative premises within the polling district that could act as a polling station. Whilst we understand the issues faced by the Head Teacher and parents the Council is bound to provide a polling place for electors within the polling district.

Discussions have also been held with the Head Teacher with a view to using part of the school as a polling station thereby allowing the school to remain open. Unfortunately this has not been possible.

All schools designated as polling stations have been given advance notice of all planned major elections up to 2017 to allow them to plan for polling station activities. When notice

was given it was suggested that they may wish to plan training days on known election days to prevent disruption to pupils' education.

At present the request cannot be supported, however should premises within the polling district become available Electoral Services will reconsider the matter.

Recommendations to Council :

No change at present but that the use of the Schools in the Division be kept under review.

Aycliffe North & Middridge Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SEA	Middridge	Middridge Village Hall, Walker Lane*	270	Yes
SEB	Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 1	Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Formerly Greenfield Meeting Hall, Ladybower* (Double Station)	1049	Yes
SEC	Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 2	Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Formerly Greenfield Meeting Hall, Ladybower* (Double Station)	1237	Yes
SED	Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall No. 3	Scout H.Q. (Newton Aycliffe), Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe	1090	Yes
SGA	Woodham	Woodham Village Community Centre, St Elizabeth`s Close, Woodham Village (Double Station)	1135	Yes
SGA	Woodham	Woodham Village Community Centre, St Elizabeth`s Close, Woodham Village (Double Station)	1043	Yes
SGA	Woodham	Agnew Community Association, Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe* (Double Station)	1283	Yes
SGA	Woodham	Agnew Community Association, Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe* (Double Station)	1195	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Aycliffe West Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SEE	West No. 6	Silverdale House, Rear of 8 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe	433	Yes
SFA	West No. 1	Methodist Church (Burnhill Way), Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe*	655	Yes
SFB	West No. 2	St Josephs RCVA Primary School (3471), Garburn Place	745	Yes
SFC	West No. 3	Stephenson Way Primary School (3521), Stephenson Way (Double Station)	441	Yes
SFD	West No. 4	Stephenson Way Primary School (3521), Stephenson Way(Double Station)	742	Yes
SFE	West No. 4	Stephenson Way Primary School (3521), Stephenson Way(Double Station)	1127	Yes
SFE	West No. 5	School Aycliffe Community Hall, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe*	594	Yes
SHC	Simpasture	Simpasture Court, Supported Housing, Newton Aycliffe*	1388	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Great Aycliffe Town Council have submitted a request that the Council identify other sites within the Township to keep disruption to education to a minimum and that the cost effectiveness of mobile polling stations be taken into account.

Within polling districts SFB, SFC and SFD there are no alternative premises available which are suitable for use as a polling station.

Mobile units do not make good polling stations and are used only as a last resort. They have no access for the disabled, are very costly to hire, site and support and are often subject to anti-social behaviour. Their use would not be recommended in these instances.

At present the use of schools in these polling districts cannot be changed. However, should suitable premises within those polling districts become available Electoral Services will reconsider the matter.

Councillor Adam has raised concerns regarding the layout and signage at St Joseph's Primary School. Discussions will be held with the Presiding Officer at the next election

ensure that the layout of the polling station is as prescribed by the Electoral Commission. Additional signage will be provided.

He raised further concerns at the distance electors had to travel to access the polling station at Stephenson Way Primary School. Presently this is the only available polling station adjacent to the polling district.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Bishop Middleham and Cornforth Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SCA	Bishop Middleham	Bishop Middleham Village Hall, Front Street, Bishop Middleham*	1059	Yes
SCB	Cornforth	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Joseph Hopper Terrace, West Cornforth (Double Station)	990	Yes
SCB	Cornforth	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Joseph Hopper Terrace, West Cornforth (Double Station)	1095	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Bishop Middleham Village Hall have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Blackhalls Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SMA	Station Town	Millbank Methodist Church, Milbank Chapel Terrace, Station Town	824	Yes
		<i>The remainder of the Blackhalls Division is in the Easington Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments/observations have been received.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Chilton Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SDA	Chilton No 1	Chilton Catholic Club, Sacred Heart Community Centre, Brooklyn Road*	1811	Yes
SDB	Chilton No. 2	Hutton House, Durham Road	1139	Yes
SDD	Windlestone	Eden Arms Hotel, Rushyford*	177	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Ferryhill Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SAA	Ferryhill & Dean Bank No 1	Ferryhill Catholic Club, Dean Road, Ferryhill *	701	Yes
SAB	Ferryhill & Dean Bank No 2	St Lukes Parish Centre, Church Lane, Ferryhill*	1275	Yes
SAC	Ferryhill & Dean Bank No 3			
SAD	Ferryhill & Dean Bank No 4	Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute, St Cuthberts Terrace, Ferryhill *	1465	Yes
SBA	Broom No 1	Ferryhill Community Hub, Lambton Road, Ferryhill (Double Station)	1797	Yes
SBB	Broom No 2	Ferryhill Community Hub, Lambton Road, Ferryhill (Double Station)	2021	Yes
SDC	Ferryhill Station	Royal British Legion Club, Back Linden Terrace, Ferryhill Station	476	Yes
		Mainsforth Community Association, High Street, Ferryhill Station *	255	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Ferryhill Town Council have requested that additional polling stations be provided in the Broom Ward. The only alternatives in this ward are Cleves Cross Primary School and Broom Primary School. Broom Primary School is in the same polling district as Ferryhill Community Hub and it is not deemed necessary to split the polling district to allow for two polling stations in this area.

Electors at SBB could be directed to Cleves Cross Primary School. However the use of schools is a contentious issue and the Council would prefer to minimise their use wherever possible.

At present no change is recommended but Electoral Services will attempt to find suitable venue in the SBB polling district, other than the Primary School, which may be used as a polling station.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Sedgefield Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SJA SJB	Bradbury	Mordon Village Hall, Aycliffe Lane, Mordon*	344	Yes
SKA	Fishburn	Fishburn & District Working Mens Club, Rear Alhambra Terrace* (Double Station)	2034	Yes
SJC	Sedgefield	Sedgefield Parish Hall, Front Street* (Triple Station)	4135	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Trimdon & Thornley Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SKB	Old Trimdon	East Durham AAP (Trimdon Office), 15a Church Road *	794	Yes
SKB	Old Trimdon	Trimdon Village Hall, Hallgarth Road, Trimdon Village * (Double Station)	1598	Yes
SLA	New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange No. 1	Trimdon Colliery & Deaf Hill W.M.C., The Square, Trimdon Colliery *	458	Yes
SLB	New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange No. 2	Trimdon Grange Community Centre, Salters Lane, Trimdon Grange*	982	Yes
SMB	Trimdon Foundry No. 1	Trimdon Station Community Centre, Station Road East, Trimdon Station	666	Yes
SMC	Trimdon Foundry No. 2	Trimdon Station Residents Association, 29/30 May Crescent, Trimdon Station*	464	Yes
SNA	Wheatley Hill No. 1	All Saints Church (Wheatley Hill), Church Street, Wheatley Hill*	567	Yes
SNB	Wheatley Hill No. 2	Wheatley House, Aged Miners Homes*	1750	Yes
SNC	Thornley	Thornley Branch Library, High Street, Thornley*	1975	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

Those polling stations marked with an * have indicated that their continued use as a polling station is welcomed.

Trimdon Parish Council believe that the two polling stations in Trimdon Village, (polling district SKB) are in close proximity to one another. They would prefer that one be relocated to a mobile unit on the forecourt of a local store (subject to the owner's approval).

Mobile units do not make good polling stations and are used only as a last resort. They have no access for the disabled, are very costly to hire, site and support and are often subject to anti-social behaviour. Their use would not be recommended in this instance.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.

Wingate Division

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
SMD	Wingate No. 1	Wingate Community Centre, Front Street West, Wingate	973	Yes
SME	Wingate No. 2	Gully House, Gully Road, Wingate	2182	Yes
		<i>The remainder of the Wingate Division is covered in the Easington Constituency</i>		

Returning Officer's Proposals :

No change.

The following comments/observations were received during the consultation period :

No comments/observations received.

Recommendations to Council :

No change.