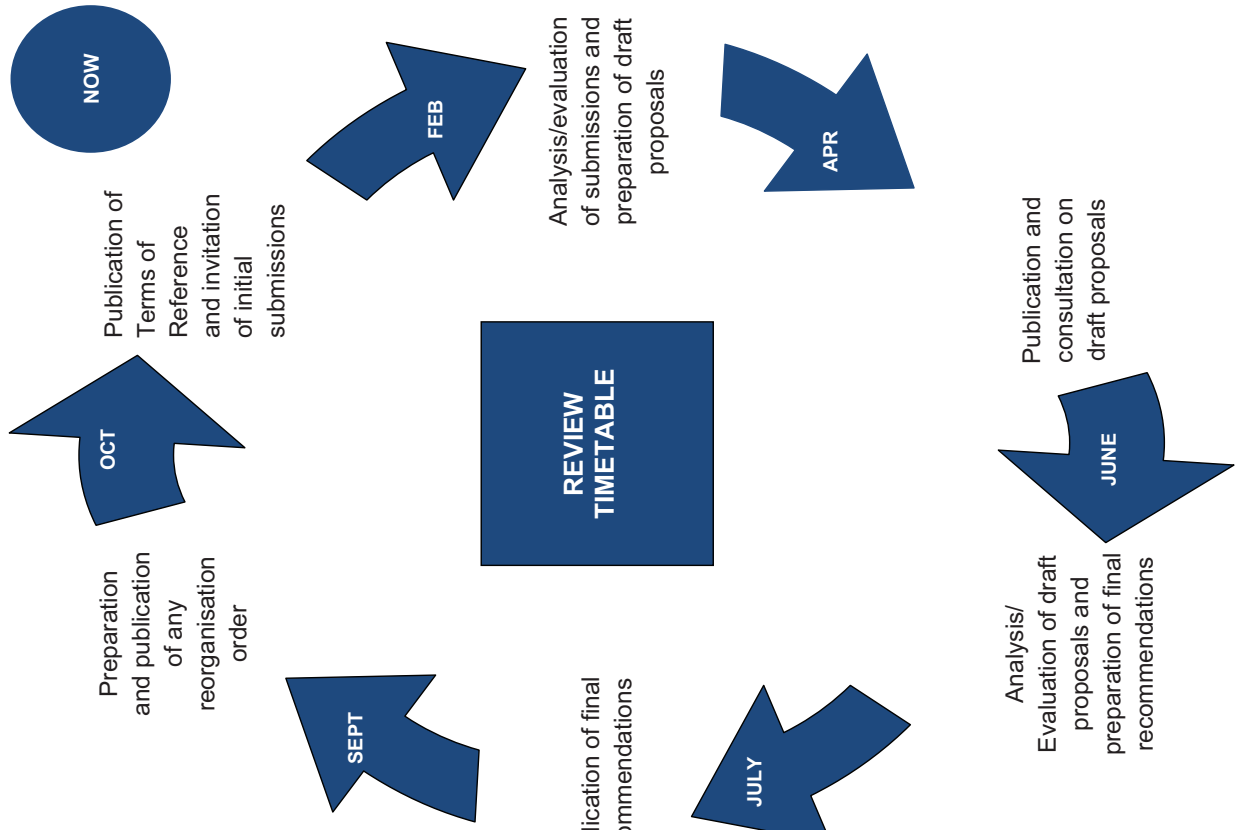




COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE AREA OF PELTON AND NEWFIELD

Progress so far?

The Community Governance Review is being carried out in a number of stages:



What is a community governance Review?

A Community Governance Review (“Review”) is a legal process carried out by the County Council where the Council can ask the public and other interested parties about the most suitable way of representing local communities.

The County Council may undertake a Review or a request for a Review can be submitted by the public and local groups by way of a valid petition which requires the Council to carry out a Review.

The outcome of a Review can lead to the creation of a parish or town council in an unparished area. Reviews such as the one we are carrying out in your area, pay particular attention to the possible revision of an existing parish/town council boundary, council size and warding arrangements.

The County Council must ensure that community governance in the area under Review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient.

Any recommendations made by the County Council through a Review should bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

The proposal

Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends Residents Association (“the Residents Association”) submitted a valid petition to the County Council which seeks to incorporate the unparished area of Newfield, (marked ‘A’ on the plan) within the parish boundary of Pelton (marked ‘B’ on the plan), served by Pelton Parish Council.

The County Council has identified two options for the future community governance arrangements in the area.

Option 1

To implement changes to the current community governance arrangements in accordance with the petition submitted by the Residents Association.

This would see the current parish boundary of Pelton Parish extended to include the unparished area of Newfield.

Residents of Newfield would pay a precept to Pelton Parish Council (please refer to the section ‘How will you be affected?’)

The County Council would then need to review the electoral arrangements of Pelton Parish Council and further consultation may be undertaken at that time.

Option 2

That the current community governance arrangements in the unparished area of Newfield and the parish of Pelton remain unchanged. This would mean that the changes proposed by the Residents Association **would not** be implemented and there would be no change to current community governance arrangements in the area.

How will you be affected?

How you will be affected will depend upon the area you live in should the County Council decide to implement the proposals at the end of the Review process. Residents currently living within the unparished area of Newfield will be most affected by the proposed changes. Residents living in this area would become part of Pelton Parish.

If you live in an area where there is a Parish Council, they need money to provide additional services within the parish. The County Council collects this money on their behalf through the Council Tax and the amount will be shown on your bill, but the Parish Council decides how much it needs. The table below illustrates the current precept charges by Pelton Parish Council. Residents would benefit from any local services that Pelton Parish Council choose to deliver. Information on services should be sought from Pelton Parish Council.

Parish Council	Registered Electors	No of Cllrs	No. of Wards	2013/14 Band D Equivalent	2014/15 Band D Equivalent	2015/16 Band D Equivalent
Pelton	4953	15	3	£80.22	£97.56	£102.44

Why your views are important

The Council must ensure that any proposals reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and that they are effective and convenient. A final decision will only be made by the County Council at the end of the Review process. The Review will only be completed when the Council publishes its final recommendations.

We would like to hear your views on the proposals and any other comments or proposals about community governance in your area. A consultation response form is attached, although comments will be accepted in other formats (such as letter or e-mail). Representations should be sent to:

FREEPOST RSSZ-SYUS-ERXZ
Democratic Services
Room 1/13-20
County Hall
DURHAM, DH1 5UL

Written representation can be submitted by email to durhamcgr@durham.gov.uk. If you have any queries regarding the consultation, or need any help to access information or to complete the response form, or would like to request further copies of this consultation leaflet, please contact us using the details above. Further information on the Review, including updates on the progress of the Review, can be found on the council's web site www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance

