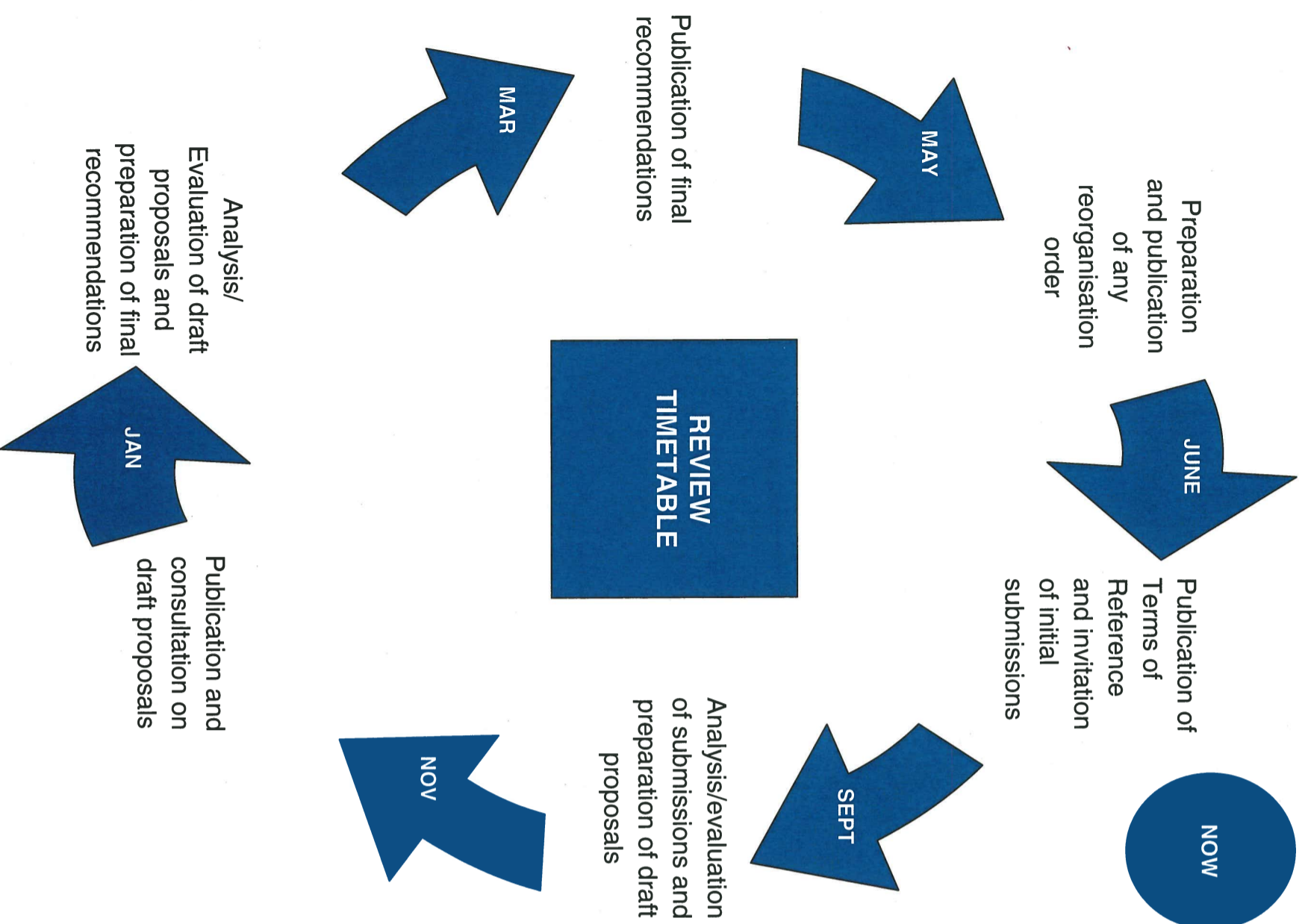


## Progress so far?

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



## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE AREA OF PELTON FELL



### ***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 formation of a local council, 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**

Pelton Fell Community Partnership (“the Partnership”) submitted a valid petition to the County Council which seeks for the unparished of Pelton Fell to have its own independent community council. It is understood that the petitioners are seeking a parish council to be known as a community 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 Partnership. This would see the current unparished area of Pelton Fell, as shown on the map, have its own community council.

Residents of Pelton Fell would pay a precept to a community council (*please refer to the section ‘How will you be affected?’*)

*The County Council would then need to review the council size, warding of the council, and further consultation would be undertaken at that time.*

#### **Option 2**

That the current community governance arrangements in the unparished area Pelton Fell remain unchanged. This would mean that the changes proposed by the Partnership **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 whether the County Council decide to implement the proposals at the end of the Review process. Residents currently living within the unparished area of Pelton Fell would become part of a new community council.

If you live in an area where there is a local 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 local council decides how much it needs. Residents would benefit from any local services that a local council choose to deliver. A precept charged by any local council can vary considerably depending on the type of services that the local council wish to deliver. There is no comparable figure for councillor numbers, precepts or council tax bases for parish councils. For illustration purposes only, below are some examples of the precept charges per year for local councils in the area for Band D equivalent properties.

Parish Council	Registered Electors	No of Cllrs	2014/15 Band D Equivalent	2015/16 Band D Equivalent
Bourmoor	1492	9	£19.43	£20.66
Edmondsley	436	7	£35.64	£35.64
Kimbleworth & Plawsworth	1161	11	£21.19	£21.36
Pelton	4736	15	£97.56	£102.44
Sacrison	3582	15	£40.82	£40.82

## 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 must be received by 6 November and 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](mailto: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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance)

