

# Sunderland

## Personal Details:

Name: Paul Stewart

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: • Redhill Ward Labour Party • Washington and Gateshead South Constituency Labour Party • Sunderland Labour Group • Sunderland Co-operative Party (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

Please see attached.

## Attached Documents:

- Redhill Ward Boundary submission.docx
- Co-operative Party Sunderland - Boundary review submission.doc
- Labour Group submission to draft boundary proposals.docx
- WAGSCLP submission to draft boundary proposals.docx



**Paul Stewart**

Tel: 07091 009193  
cllr.paul.stewart@sunderland.gov.uk



**Alison Smith**

Tel: 07435 753854  
cllr.alison.smith@sunderland.gov.uk



**John Usher**

Tel: 07867 275820  
cllr.john.usher@sunderland.gov.uk



10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

LGBCE  
Po Box 133  
Blyth  
NE24 9FE

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Proposed Boundary Changes for Sunderland**

As the secretary of Redhill Ward Labour Party, I have been requested by members to write to you concerning your draft proposals for boundary changes as they impact on our local community.

Starting with your proposed naming of the ward as Redhouse Ward, we would wish to request that you reconsider this proposal as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the multiple communities within the new boundary.

Your predecessors, some 20 years ago when the boundaries were last reviewed, had some difficulty in linking a specific community to use in naming of the Ward, noting that it consisted of distinct communities of Upper Redhouse, Lower Redhouse, Downhill, Witherwack, Town End Farm, Wear View and Castlemede. Since this earlier review we have also had the addition of the new Castle Rise estate and the proposed area of Wentbridge if retained within the new ward boundary.

In coming to a determination in your previous review, the commission took "Red" from Redhouse and "hill" from Downhill to come up with the "Redhill" name. As there has been no demand from residents for a name change, we would request the commission reconsider its decision and revert back to the Redhill Ward name. If this is not agreeable, then an alternative to consider could be St. Cuthbert's, as the prominent building in the Ward to be the focus rather than any specific community. If the use of community names are a red line for the commission, then, as a last resort would suggest the two biggest communities of Redhouse and Downhill in the naming of the Ward.

Turning now to the proposed boundary, we would request that the commission reconsider the move of Marley Pots estate (within the current U01 area of Southwick) and place this back within the proposed Southwick Ward (see streets impacted below).

Arnay Court	Ashwood Ave	Beechwood Cr	Chestnut Cr	Elmwood Ave
Hazlewood Ave	Hollywood Ave	Landuf Close	Maplewood Ave	Marley Cr
Mulberry Ave	North Hylton Rd	Oaklands Cr	Old Mill Rd	Pinewood Sq
Pinewood Sq	The Poplars	Yewtree Ave	Redcar Rd	

While we note that on a map, a boundary using Old Mill Road would seem logical, it does not take into consideration the local linkage of this former council estate with Southwick, being part of the area since it was built just after WWII. The residents consider themselves as part of Southwick, with the area itself being traced as far back as Southwick Urban District Council. While over the passage of time the boundary of Southwick Ward has changed, Marley Pots being part of it has not and in recent times can be traced back as part of the ward to the local government reorganisation of 1973.

Your proposals also suggest an area bordering Witherwack (Wentbridge/Whitchurch Road area within U03 polling area, a total of 67 electors) should be moved from the existing Southwick Ward. We are of the view that your suggestion in this case is the right one as there is no historical linkage to Southwick and the area is adjacent to the Witherwack estate that currently sits within the existing Redhill Ward.

We also did consider whether new housing being built on the former Sunderland College site within U03 (a total of 164 anticipated electors) that sits between Redhouse and Marley Pots also be retained. On balance, while recognising these electors will have no historical link with Southwick or Marley Pots, we were of the opinion they would sit more as an extension of Marley Pots and the appropriate fit would therefore be Southwick Ward. However, we are open to the commission considering this as an option as it will help reduce the variance of both wards closer to the average for the city.

We believe the impact of our proposals, while ensuring communities are brought back together, will result in a revised Redhill ward of 8238 electors (-7% from the average) and Southwick Ward of 9382 electors (+6% from the average). Crucially, our proposal will only impact on these wards and is therefore self contained.

Finally, as a resident in this community, but brought up in neighbouring Southwick, I understand well the importance of maintaining and strengthening community links and believe the proposal we have put forward achieves our goal and yours.

Your sincerely

Paul Stewart  
Secretary  
Redhill Ward Labour Party



10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

LGBCE  
Po Box 133  
Blyth  
NE24 9FE

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Proposed Boundary Changes for Sunderland**

I am writing to you as the Sunderland branch chair of the Co-operative Party to put forward our suggestions as part of your consultation into the current boundary review.

As a political party, though we have an electoral arrangement with the Labour Party, we do value our independence as a separate party and movement. We currently have 20 councillors out of the 75 on the City Council that have been elected with the support of both the Labour and Co-operative parties, so consider ourselves to have a real voice on the city council.

One of our key platforms is co-operation and supporting communities and our comments relating to your boundary proposals are based upon these key elements.

You will be aware that the various political leaders in Sunderland agreed to work together and put forward some limited changes to ward names and also to reconnect the community of Silksworth as part of a submission from the council. I can confirm our endorsement of these proposals and hope the commission will take them into account, considering the rarity of political agreement when dealing with electoral boundaries.

Looking beyond these limited suggestions we have also been involved with (and in some cases actively participated in) events within communities to fight for them to be reunited within proposed ward boundaries. We can therefore confirm that we fully endorse the following local campaigns:

- to keep the community of Hollycarrside together and, where possible, within the boundary of Ryhope Ward,
- to keep the community of Silksworth together and, where possible, within the boundary of Silksworth and Farringdon Ward,
- to keep the community of Hendon together and, where possible, within the boundary of Grangetown Ward,
- to keep the community of East Rainton together where possible within the boundary of Hetton Ward.

We have also been made aware of a number of separate city-wide proposals from other political parties, inclusive of a number of differing suggestions from the various bodies that make up the Labour Party. In reviewing their ideas, we were conscious that the proposal from the Labour Group referenced how their suggestions had been formulated through consultation with local residents as well as elected members. That consultation also included our representatives on the city council, being then cascaded down to our fellow co-operators throughout the city. As a consultee to their proposals, we can therefore confirm our full endorsement of the Labour Group proposals at this stage of the local government boundary review.

In conclusion, we recognise that these tasks are not easy and as a commission you will be torn between the competing principles of keeping communities together, while ensuring electoral equality. In coming to your decisions, we simply remind you that electors are people and simply ask for their voice to be heard.

Yours sincerely

Claire Rowntree

Chairperson

Co-operative Party (Sunderland Branch)

## **Review of draft boundary proposals - City of Sunderland**

Can we start off by thanking the commission for their hard work in undertaking a review of the 25 wards within the boundary of Sunderland. There is much to commend about work undertaken by the commission, though we do have some suggestions that we believe will further strengthen these proposals.

We have reviewed the draft proposals and – in light of submissions to us from elected members, community groups and local residents – have made a number of suggestions for consideration, while attempting to ensure that all 25 wards proposed are consistent in having “good electoral equality”, defined by the commission as within 10% of the average ward size in the year 2029 of 8847 electors (within the range of 7962 and 9732).

Our response to your draft proposals follows the following format to allow simple comparison with the draft proposals:

- North-West Sunderland
- North-East Sunderland
- South Sunderland
- Houghton and the Herrington's
- Washington
- Proposed Ward Names
- Summary of proposed changes

We believe that our suggested amendments will strengthen those put forward and in doing so have been guided – as has the commission – by ensuring these recommended changes:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Where we have found these principles in conflict we have prioritised community links, as have the commission in their draft proposals, which we welcome.

Please therefore find enclosed below our submission to the Commission's consultation on draft ward boundaries within the City of Sunderland.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Phil Tye,  
Chair, Sunderland Labour Group

# **Submission from Sunderland Labour Group**

## **1. North-West Sunderland**

The current draft boundaries within the North West have a variation between 8261 (-7%) and 9517 (+8%), while our proposed amendments to the draft will result in a variation of 8238 (-7%) and 9517 (+8%)

### **1.1. Barnes & Thornhill Ward**

We fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward apart from one proposed amendment, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities. We are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward represents the main communities within the new boundary.

Our minor change is to support the cross-party working group in relation to Barnes Park and that it should be within a single ward boundary. We support their rationale that a number of local residents and community interest groups make important contributions to its upkeep and operation and that it is important for users, residents and interest groups to clearly understand which ward councillors are responsible for the park.

We believe the logical placing for the park would be with the ward of the same name – so Barnes and Thornhill ward.

### **1.2. Pallion Ward**

We again fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities. We are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward represents the main community within the new boundary.

We are therefore not recommending any changes to your draft boundary OR naming of this ward.

### 1.3. Pennywell Ward

We are proposing that the Pennywell Ward within your draft proposals be renamed “Pennywell and South Hylton” as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary. This is particularly evident in the omission of the historic village of South Hylton (previously part of the Baron Hylton Estate) within the name of the ward.

The council cross party working group (see their separate submission) considered that these two important communities have distinct identities and are places ‘in their own right’ and that both should be acknowledged in the new ward name. Residents of Pennywell do not typically consider the area of South Hylton to be a sub-district of their community, and vice-versa.

We are therefore supportive of their view that “Pennywell and South Hylton” better reflects the community identities within this ward. It also follows the ‘two-place’ ward naming convention that is a common theme across several of the Boundary Commission’s proposals.

Finally, in relation to the boundary of the ward, we fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities.

### 1.4. Hylton Castle Ward

We are proposing that the Hylton Castle Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary, consisting of the former council housing estates of Hylton Castle and Town End Farm, together with the former UDC area of Castletown.



Your predecessors in the last review some 20 years ago also wrestled with an appropriate name for the ward, concluding that “the Castle”, as the most prominent feature of the ward, should be reflected in the name rather than any specific individual community. We are therefore proposing a name change to Castle Ward.

If you are unable to accept our proposal, then an alternative would be to incorporate the two largest communities of Castletown and Hylton Castle in the naming of the ward.

Finally, we fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities.

#### 1.5. Redhouse Ward

We are proposing that the Redhouse Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary.

Again, as referenced above, your predecessors had some difficulty in linking a specific community to use in naming of the ward, noting that it consisted of distinct communities of Upper Redhouse, Lower Redhouse, Downhill, Witherwack, Town End Farm, Wear View, Castlemede. Since the previous review we have also had the addition of the Castle Rise estate and the proposed area of Wentbridge if retained within the new ward boundary.

Your predecessors, in coming to a conclusion, took “Red” from Redhouse and “hill” from Downhill to come up with the “Redhill” name. As there has been no demand from residents for a name change, we would request the commission reconsider its decision and revert back to the Redhill Ward name. If this is not agreeable, then again, as with above, we would suggest St. Cuthbert’s as the prominent building in the ward be considered rather than any specific community. If the use of community names are a red line for the commission, then we would

suggest the two biggest communities of Redhouse and Downhill be reflected in the naming of the ward.

Turning now to the proposed boundary, we would request that the commission reconsider the move of Marley Pots estate (within the current U01 area of Southwick) and place this back within the proposed Southwick Ward (see streets impacted below).

Arnay Court	Ashwood Ave	Beechwood Cr	Chestnut Cr	Elmwood Ave
Hazlewood Ave	Hollywood Ave	Landuf Close	Maplewood Ave	Marley Cr
Mulberry Ave	North Hylton Rd	Oaklands Cr	Old Mill Rd	Pinewood Sq
Pinewood Sq	The Poplars	Yewtree Ave	Redcar Rd	

While we note that on a map, a boundary using Old Mill Road would seem logical, it does not take into consideration the local linkage of this former Council estate with Southwick, being part of the area since it was built just after WWII. The residents consider themselves as part of Southwick, with the area itself being traced as far back as Southwick Urban District Council. While over the passage of time the boundary of Southwick Ward has changed, Marley Pots being part of it has not and in recent times can be traced back as part of the ward to the local government reorganisation of 1973.

Your proposals also suggest an area bordering Witherwack (Wentbridge/Whitchurch Road area within U03 polling area, a total of 67 electors) should be moved from the existing Southwick Ward. We are of the view that your suggestion in this case is the right one as there is no historical linkage to Southwick and the area is adjacent to the Witherwack estate.

We did consider whether new housing being built on the former Sunderland College site within U03 (a total of 164 anticipated electors) that sits between Redhouse and Marley Pots and without established community links could also be retained, but on balance were of the opinion these properties would sit more as an extension of Marley Pots and the appropriate fit would be Southwick Ward. However, we are open to the commission considering this as an option.

The resulting revised ward will have an electorate of 8238 with a variance from the average of -7%.

### 1.6. Conclusion

We believe the minor changes proposed for the North West can be accommodated by the commission, building upon the work you have undertaken to further strengthen communities, while still ensuring the principle of good electoral equality is maintained as shown in the chart below.

Ward	Commission proposal – electorate 2029	Commission proposal – variance from average	Our proposal - electorate 2029	Our proposal – variance from average
Barnes and Thornhill	9008	2%	9008	+2%
Pallion	9517	8%	9517	+8%
Pennywell (Pennywell and South Hylton)	9496	7%	9496	+7%
Hylton Castle (Castle)	8261	-7%	8261	-7%
Redhouse (Redhill/St. Cuthbert's)	9359	6%	8238	-7%

## 2. North-East Sunderland

The current draft boundaries have a variation between 7995 (-10%) and 9330 (+5%), while our proposed amendments to the draft will result in a variation of 7995 (-10%) and 9382 (+6%)

### 2.1. Central Ward

We strongly disagree with the boundaries of the proposed Central Ward due to the impact of splitting the community of Hendon into two with part being proposed for the Grangetown Ward via a boundary at Villette Road. We feel this would

cause significant detrimental impact to one of the most deprived areas of Sunderland.

For generations Hendon as a community has been included in its own ward with identified long standing and well-established community organisations operating within the defined community. Additionally, it would also cause confusion with the residents who currently find themselves residing in a ward that is familiar and well known and easily understood.

We therefore propose that the boundary with Grangetown be amended and that the polling districts of F02, F03 & F04 be removed and incorporated into a revised Grangetown Ward (see Grangetown for details of this proposal).

In addition to the above proposal, we are also of the view that the ward boundary with the Tunstall and Humbleton Ward be amended so that the boundary becomes Queen Alexandra Road, thereby incorporating district P02 and part of District P03 (currently 172 electors – see streets impacted below) in a move from Tunstall and Humbleton Ward to Central Ward.

### P03

Glen Path	The Glen	Sanford Ct	Strawberry Ct	Ashbrooke Rd
The Cedars	Willowbank Rd			

The resulting revised ward will have an electorate of 8100 with a variance from the average of -8%, with a revised border along Burdon Road/Ryhope Road.

Finally, we are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is appropriate and endorse the commission's decision.

## 2.2. Fulwell Ward

We fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities. We are

also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is representative of the main communities within the new boundary.

We are therefore not recommending any changes to your draft boundary OR naming of this ward.

### 2.3. Roker Ward

We also endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that though the boundary at 7995 electors is - 10% below the average, the rationale to support and maintain existing community identities was the right decision in this case. We are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is representative of the main communities within the new boundary.

We are therefore not recommending any changes to your draft boundary OR naming of this ward.

### 2.4. Southwick Ward

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the Marley Pots estate, inclusive of the proposed new housing development on the old college campus, be moved back into Southwick (see Redhouse for details of the proposal and rationale).

The impact of this change would be to reunite the Marley Pots community of Southwick west of old Mill Road (941 electors), in addition to a further 164 proposed from the new housing adjacent. This will result in a new electorate of 9382 and +6% variance over the average.

Finally, we are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is appropriate and endorse the commission's decision.

## 2.5. Conclusion

We believe the minor changes proposed for the North East can be accommodated by the commission, building upon the work you have undertaken to further strengthen communities, while still ensuring the principle of good electoral equality is maintained as shown in the chart below.

Ward	Commission proposal – electorate 2029	Commission proposal – variance from average	Our proposal - electorate 2029	Our proposal – variance from average
Central	9330	5%	8100	-8%
Fulwell	8761	-1%	8761	-1%
Roker	7995	-10%	7995	-10%
Southwick	8277	-6%	9382	+6%

## 3. **South Sunderland**

The current draft boundaries have a variation between 8470 (-4%) and 9254 (+5%), while our proposed amendments to the draft will result in a variation of 8663 (-2%) and 9724 (+9.93%).

### 3.1. Doxford Ward

We are proposing that the Doxford Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new ward.

We support the proposal of the council cross party working group (see separate submission) that as the housing in this area is commonly known as Doxford Park (as well as being the name of an actual park in the area), that this minor change be considered by the Commission. Both we and the working group believe that this revised name better reflects the community identity within this ward.

Turning to the proposed boundary, as set out by the commission, we would ask that you reconsider the current proposals relating to the draft boundary, to enable local communities to be reunited as follows:

- Move the boundary with Ryhope from Burdon Road to Eltham Road (D05 – See Ryhope for details and rationale) gaining 663 electors.
- Moving the boundary with Farringdon and Silksworth along Cambridge Road to Burdon Road, losing 1234 electors (see Farringdon and Silksworth option 2 for details and rationale).

This will ensure local communities are reunited and result in a revised electorate of 8663 and a variance of -2% above the average ward size.

### 3.2. Farringdon and Silksworth Ward

We would suggest a minor change to the proposed ward name of Farringdon and Silksworth, simply to reverse the order as this better represents Silksworth as the larger of the two main communities.

This proposal is also supported by the council cross party working group, recognising that Silksworth, being the parish and a historical village, as well as Farringdon not existing under the old boundaries as it was subsumed within St Chad's and that this may cause great confusion to voters.

Turning to the proposed boundary of the ward, though Silksworth is the larger of the communities, this has now been split under the commission draft proposals with the Doxford Ward. Reuniting this community of Silksworth is supported by the council cross party working group – indeed it is the only boundary change that all parties are agreed upon, a rare example of co-operation and we hope that the commission can accommodate this proposal.

Starting with the northern boundary that separates the Silksworth and Farringdon, and Tunstall and Humbledon Wards. The Boundary Commission's draft recommendations currently divide the Sainsbury's site on Silksworth Lane in half, with the store in Silksworth and Farringdon and the petrol station in Tunstall and Humbledon Ward. The boundary proposed in the draft recommendations, between the footpath and the rear of the Sainsbury's site, crosses an area of green open space which is totally indistinguishable and unidentifiable, making it

extremely difficult for all interested parties to understand the exact boundary in this area.

We are supportive of the Council working group submission proposal that the ward boundary should follow the north-south footpath to the west of Sainsbury's and then the northern edge of the "Silksworth Sports Complex" car park and east-west access road to lead out to Silksworth Lane.

In relation to the Southern boundary, we are proposing three options for the commission to consider as follows:

#### Option 1

Consider extending the boundary to take the electorate from Cambridge Road to Burdon Road, adding 1086 electors to the ward resulting in a revised electorate of 9556 and 8% variance above the average (see streets impacted below). This decision will reunite the Silksworth community currently within the existing Silksworth ward.

##### T05

Cambridge Rd	Surry Ave	Pembroke Ave	Quarry St	Orr Ave
Davison Ave	Norman Ave	Park Ave	Emmerson Tr	Byrne Tr West
Hill Brow	Londonderry St	Londonderry Rd	Hill St	Maria St
Robert St	Lord St	Aline St	Quarry Rd	

#### Option 2

In addition to above, consider including the following area Silksworth from the proposed Doxford Ward, resulting in a ward with 9724 Electors and +9.93% variance above the average (see streets impacted below). This proposal will reunite an additional part of the Silksworth Community and is supported by the cross-party working group (see the council separate submission).

Tunstall Vg Rd	Fairways	Cherrywood Gds	Shoreswood Dr	Redwood Gr
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#### Option 3



In addition to above, for completeness and ensure a clear boundary to consider including the following streets from Ryhope Ward, resulting in a ward with 9797 electors and +10.75% variance above the average (see streets impacted below).

Bracknell CI	Camberley CI			
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Our preference would be option 3, followed by option 2, and only if neither of these can be accommodated by the commission as viable to consider option 1. As option 3 is above the commission threshold, for the remainder of this submission our figures will relate to Option 2, which is also supported by the cross-party working group.

### 3.3. Grangetown Ward

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current proposal to split the communities of Hollycarrside and Hendon due to the boundaries of the proposed ward.

We therefore propose that part of M02 (Hollycarrside) be removed from the proposed Grangetown Ward and placed within Ryhope Ward, where historically the community has rested (see proposals for Ryhope Ward for details). This will have the effect of moving 1317 electors.

In relation to Hendon, we propose that this community be reconstituted through the following:

- That the remaining electorate of polling districts F03 and F04, in addition to F02 (containing the community of Hendon), be added to the Grangetown Ward. The revised ward boundary being Wear Street/Hudson Road/Burdon Road.
- That the boundary with the proposed Tunstall and Humbleton Ward be amended to run along Queen Alexandra Road, resulting in the retention of the following streets within P04 & P05 within the ward. This will retain 248

electors from P04 and 460 electors from P05 (see streets impacted below).

#### P04

Winalot Ave	Thornfield Gr	Sea View Road	Waldron Sq	Wyrnyard Sq
Wyvern Sq	Nilverton Av	Bowtrees		

#### P05

Woodstock Ave	Weldon Ave	Victoria Ave	Ryhope Rd	The Sycamores
Wooler Sq	Wadsely Sq	Cedars Park	Belford Tr	Belford Rd
Belford Cl	Montpelier Tr	Sea View Rd		

The result of these minor amendments will ensure the community of Hendon is retained intact and result in the electorate for the new Grangetown Ward of 8673 electors or -2% below the variance from average.

Finally, we are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward should reflect the main communities of Hendon and Grangetown within the naming of the ward. We are therefore proposing a name change for the ward to Hendon and Grangetown.

### 3.4. Ryhope

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current proposal to split the local community of Hollycarrside between Ryhope and Grangetown Wards. We therefore propose that the draft boundary be extended to take the electorate from M02 along Toll Bar Road adding 1317 electors. This will have the effect of reuniting the community (see streets impacted below).

Leechmere Way	Lansdowne	Linfield	Attlee Gr	Lilian Ave
Ralph Ave	Hollycarrside Rd	Linsell	Hewitt	Langurst
Edgmond Ct	Westray Cl	Orkney Dr	Poplar Gr	Cherry Tree Sq
Rosebank cl	Gairsay Cl	Ronaldsay Cl	Lynthorpe	Lynden Rd
Stronsay Cl	Leatham	Sandsay Cl	Lyngrove	

To allow for the reuniting of Hollycarrside, we recognise that for Ryhope Ward to remain within the tolerance levels set by the commission that it requires further amendment. We therefore propose amending the boundary with Burdon Road to that of (D05) Eltham Road, and the loss of 663 electors to the proposed Doxford Ward.

Goathland Dr	Danby Cl	Ainthorpe Cl	Lidcombe Cl	Runswick Cl
Boulby Cl	Flyingdale Dr	Houlsyke Cl	Merryweather R	Hawsker Cl
Levisham Cl	Tunstall Vg Gr	The Maltings	Padock Lane	Camberley Cl
Bracknell Cl	Hiltop Gds			

The impact of reuniting both communities will result in a revised electorate for Ryhope Ward of 9347 electors and a variance of 6% above the average ward size.

Finally, we are also of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is appropriate and endorse the commission's decision.

### 3.5. Sandhill Ward

We are proposing that the Sandhill Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary. The council cross party working group have proposed that an alternative name of Grindon and Thorney Close better reflects community identities, and we endorse this suggestion.

We are though supportive of the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities.

### 3.6. Tunstall & Humbledon

We are of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward is appropriate and endorse the commission's decision.

We are though proposing that the ward boundary be amended in line with the revised boundaries of both Grangetown and Central Wards, using Queen Alexandra Road as the boundary. The impact of this change will be:

- The ward will gain the remainder of districts P04 and P05 from Grangetown (see Grangetown for details and rationale), totalling 2601 electors.
- The ward will lose the remainder of district P02 and part of P03 to Central Ward (see Central Ward for details and rationale), totalling 2472 electors.

This will result in a revised Tunstall and Humbleton Ward totalling 8934 electors and 1% variance above the average.

### 3.7. Conclusion

We believe the minor changes for South Sunderland can be accommodated by the commission, building upon the work you have undertaken to further strengthen communities, while still ensuring the principle of good electoral equality is maintained as shown in the chart below.

Ward	Commission proposal – electorate 2029	Commission proposal – variance from average	Our proposal - electorate 2029	Our proposal – variance from average
Doxford (Doxford Park)	9254	5%	8663	-2%
Farringdon and Silksworth (Silksworth and Farringdon)	8470	-4%	9726	+10% (9.93%)
Grangetown (Hendon and Grangetown)	8951	1%	8673	-2%
Ryhope	8693	-2%	9347	+6%
Sandhill (Grindon & Thorney Close)	8766	-1%	8766	-1%

Tunstall & Humbledon	8805	0%	8934	+1%
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#### **4. Houghton and the Herrington's**

The current draft boundaries have a variation between 8619 (-3%) and 9457 (+7%), while our proposed amendments to the draft will result in a variation of 7678 (-13%) and 9702 (+10%).

In addition to the proposed amendments below, we did have an additional request from residents to keep the A19 as a boundary and while there are several models that can accommodate this proposal, we were unable in the timeframe available to develop a model acceptable to all communities affected.

We therefore note the proposals put forward by the commission for this area of the city and are unable to propose a viable alternative covering the 5 wards within the Coalfield area. However, we would ask you consider the following as part of your consultation, as outlined below:

##### **4.1. Herrington**

We note the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward and that it maintains the principle of good electoral equality. However, we are not of the opinion the ward ensures existing community identities are maintained but cannot offer an alternative to what is proposed.

If the ward boundary remains unchanged then we are of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward represents the differing communities within the new boundary.

##### **4.2. Hetton**

Having reviewed the proposals from the commission we would reference a request from residents of East Rainton that they be retained within Hetton Ward. This would result in an increase in the electorate of Hetton to around 9702 electors and within the limits set by the commission (9.65% above the average).

However, we do though recognise that the impact on the new Houghton South and Hetton Downs Ward - without subsequent adjustment - would be to reduce the number of electors to around 7678 (-13%) and outside the limits set by the commission.

We would request that the commission consider an exception in this case, as they have with the proposed Roker Ward, to ensure community links are maintained.

We do though endorse the proposed naming of the ward by the commission.

#### 4.3. Houghton North

We note the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward and that it maintains the principle of good electoral equality. However, we are not of the opinion the ward ensures existing community identities are maintained but cannot offer an alternative to what is proposed.

If the ward boundary remains unchanged then we are of the opinion that an amendment be made to the naming of the ward to reflect that the majority of Houghton (including the centre) will be incorporated into the ward and should be reflected in the naming of the ward.

Our preference would be therefore to consider Houghton as a name for the ward, but if this is not acceptable to for the commission to consider Houghton West.

#### 4.4. Houghton South and Hetton Downs

We refer you to the proposal to move East Rainton into Hetton Ward, the impact on the new Houghton South and Hetton Downs Ward, being to reduce the number of electors to around 7678 (-13%) and outside the limits set by the commission. We would request that the commission consider an exception in this case to ensure community links are maintained with the Hetton Ward.

The ward boundaries (both as proposed by the commission or our alternative) cover a significant part of an area known to residents as Copt Hill and we therefore recommend that this name is retained. However, if the commission determine to retain Houghton in the name, then please consider a change to Houghton East, in conjunction to Houghton West as outlined earlier.

#### 4.5. Shiney Row

We note the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward and that it maintains the principle of good electoral equality. However, we are not of the opinion the ward ensures existing community identities are maintained but cannot offer an alternative to what is proposed.

If the ward boundary remains unchanged then we are of the opinion that the proposed name of the ward should be amended to best represent the main communities within the new boundary and suggest it be amended to Penshaw and Shiney Row.

The council cross party working group were of the view that Penshaw and Shiney Row are the two most significant communities within the proposed ward and should be recognised in the new ward name. It also reflects the fact that Penshaw Monument, a distinctive and widely known local landmark, is located in this ward. We endorse the working groups suggestion for amending the ward name.

#### 4.6. Conclusion

We believe the minor changes for the Coalfield area can be accommodated by the commission, building upon the work you have undertaken to further strengthen communities. We recognise that our proposals are outside the criteria set by the commission, but to maintain community links ask that you make an exception in this case. The impact of our proposals are outlined in the chart below.

Ward	Commission proposal – electorate 2029	Commission proposal – variance from average	Our proposal - electorate 2029	Our proposal – variance from average
Herrington	8936	1%	No alternative proposed	
Hetton	8619	-3%	9702	+10%
Houghton North (Houghton)	9151	3%	No alternative proposed	
Houghton South & Hetton Downs (Copt Hill)	8716	-1%	7678	-13%
Shiney Row (Shiney Row and Penshaw)	9457	7%	No alternative proposed	

## 5. Washington

The current draft boundaries have a variation between 8289 (-6%) and 9062 (+ 2%), while our proposed amendments to the draft will result in a variation between 8178 (-8%) and 9066 (+2%).

We believe that our proposals, while maintaining the principle of good electoral equality of the draft proposals, will reflect more closely the community interests by ensuring the centre of Washington – Washington Village – is within Washington Central Ward.

### 5.1. Washington Central

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current boundary – which is inclusive of Washington Village – in addition to the following minor changes:

- Move some of the electorate in district V01 into Washington South that will reduce Central Ward by 340 electors (see Washington South proposals for details).



- In addition, the local councillors for both Washington East and Central have received representations as part of their local consultation from residents to move their isolated community within Washington East (district W05) into Washington Central, the impact being an increase of 179 electors as of June 2023. The streets affected are:
  - Barmston Close (34 electors)
  - Barmston Court (76 Electors)
  - Station Road (12 electors)
  - Lakeside Gardens (57 electors)

The voice of the residents were clear that they consider themselves part of the wider community of Columbia, which is based within Washington Central. The loss of 340 electors to Washington South and the gain of 179 electors from Washington East will result in 2029 an electorate of 8380.

We are also fully supportive of the commission in maintaining the proposed name of the ward as Washington Central.

## 5.2. Washington East

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current boundary of Washington East which will have a proposed electorate of 9124 in 2029 and is therefore within the tolerance levels set by the commission and, under these circumstances, propose only a minor change following a request from residents as follows:

- the local councillors for both Washington East and Central have received representations as part of their local consultation from residents to move their isolated community within Washington East (district W05) into Washington Central, the impact being an increase of 179 electors as of June 2023. The streets affected are:
  - Barmston Close (34 electors)
  - Barmston Court (76 Electors)

- Station Road (12 electors)
- Lakeside Gardens (57 electors)

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect resident's requests while ensuring that disruption to the community within Washington East Ward is minimised.

We are also fully supportive of the commission in maintaining the proposed name of the ward as Washington East.

### 5.3. Washington North

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current boundary as the proposed size of Washington North Ward in 2029 of 8688 does not require any adjustment. However, local councillors from Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area, currently within Washington West (district of Z04), and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
- Kellett Close (42 electors)

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect resident's requests and will have a slight impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North to 8813 and reduce the size of Washington West by 125 electors.

We are also fully supportive of the commission in maintaining the proposed name of the ward as Washington North.

### 5.4. Washington South

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current boundary with the minor amendments as set out below.

In looking at options for increasing the electorate to ensure compliance with the commission, we have considered several options. In reviewing these we have been also guided by the geography of the existing ward and the current significant road barriers between local communities consisting of the A1(M), A1231, A182 and A195.

This in our opinion leaves only one realistic option for increasing the existing electorate of Washington South through the adding an additional part of the Lambton community from Washington Central (polling district V01).

We have therefore looked at several options relating to the community of Lambton and the subsequent impact this will have on ward boundaries across Washington and taken a minimalist approach to the disruption to the community of Lambton, which is currently already split between both wards, would be through simply extending the boundary with Washington South along Malvern Road. This would consist of moving the following streets into Washington South from Washington Central (district V01) and provide for an additional 340 electors (based upon the electoral register in June 2023).

- Cotswold Close (117 electors)
- Caradoc Close (75 electors)
- Chiltern Close (65 electors)
- Malvern Road No 1-49 (83 electors)

This option will ensure the revised electoral figures for Washington South of 8178 and well within the minimum thresholds set by the commission.

We are also fully supportive of the commission in maintaining the proposed name of the ward as Washington South.

### 5.5. Washington West

We have reviewed the proposed boundary as set out by the commission and would wish to propose that you reconsider the current boundary of Washington West which will have a proposed electorate of 9191 in 2029 and is therefore well within the tolerance levels set by the commission and does not require any significant adjustment.

However, as referenced earlier, local councillors in Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area currently within Washington West (district of Z04) and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
- Kellett Close (42 electors)

This will have an impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North by 125 electors and reduce the size of Washington West to 9066 electors.

We are also fully supportive of the commission in maintaining the proposed name of the ward as Washington West.

### 5.6. Conclusion

We believe the minor changes for Washington can be accommodated by the commission, building upon the work you have undertaken to further strengthen communities, while still ensuring the principle of good electoral equality is maintained as shown in the chart below.

Ward	Commission proposal – electorate 2029	Commission proposal – variance from average	Our proposal - electorate 2029 – check	Our proposal – variance from average - check
W. Central	8434	-5%	8380	-5%
W. East	8712	-2%	8945	+1%

W. North	8289	-6%	8813	0%
W. South	9062	2%	8178	-8%
W. West	8885	0%	9066	+2%

## 6. Proposed Ward Names

The following table summarises our position regarding ward names, providing a detailed rationale where we propose an amendment to the commission.

Boundary Commission Draft Name	Recommendation	Rationale
Barnes and Thornhill	Agree with Boundary Commission	Covers the key communities within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Central	Agree with Boundary Commission	The proposal ensures that no single one of the multiple communities within the new ward are given preference.
Doxford	Amend to Doxford Park	We believe this more adequately reflects the makeup of the new ward. This proposal has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Farringdon and Silksworth	Change to Silksworth & Farringdon	While the ward will be made up predominantly of the two communities, Silksworth will be by are the largest. This proposal has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Fulwell	Agree with Boundary Commission	Covers the key community within the proposed ward boundary
Grangetown	Hendon and Grangetown	As the proposed amended ward will contain the community of Hendon, we propose that this and Grangetown, being the largest communities, be reflected in the naming of the ward.
Herrington	Agree with Boundary Commission	Covers the key communities within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland

		Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Hetton	Agree with Boundary Commission	Covers the key community within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Houghton North	Change to Houghton  Alt 1 - Houghton West Alt 2 - Houghton and Fencehouses	The majority of Houghton (including the centre) will be incorporated into the ward and should be reflected in the naming of the ward. We have though suggested two alternatives for consideration.
Houghton South and Hetton Downs	Change to Copt Hill  Alt 1 - Houghton East	Most of the current Copt Hill Ward covers this area and traditionally known as this by local residents, and we therefore recommend it be retained. However, if the commission determine to retain Houghton in the name, then please consider Houghton West (above) and Houghton East.
Hylton Castle	Change back to Castle  Alt1 - Castletown and Hylton Castle	This is the name approved following public consultation at the last boundary review. The ward boundaries have not changed therefore request reconsideration. The previous commission recognised the various communities that make up the ward and recognised the “castle” as its focal point.
Pallion	Agree with Boundary Commission	Covers the key community within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Pennywell	Change to Pennywell & South Hylton  Alt1 - St. Anne's	The ward will be made up of 3 distinct communities consisting of the historic village of South Hylton, Pennywell and part of Ford Estate. Our preference is St. Anne's as it's the main focal point the community will recognise, though Pennywell & South Hylton will cover the 2 largest communities. This proposal has cross party support as per letter

		issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Redhouse	<p>Change back to Redhill</p> <p>Alt1 - St. Cuthbert's Alt 2 – Redhouse and Downhill</p>	<p>This is the name approved following public consultation at the last boundary review as it covers the distinct communities of Upper Redhouse, Lower Redhouse, Downhill, Witherwack, Town End Farm, Wear View, Castlemede. Indeed, since the last review, there has been the addition of the Castle Rise estate and the proposed area of Wentbridge.</p> <p>Your predecessors in coming to a conclusion took “Red” from Redhouse and “hill” from Downhill to come up with the “Redhill” name. As there has been no demand from residents for a name change,</p> <p>we would request the commission reconsider and revert to the existing name. However, if you are unable to accept this to look at St. Cuthbert's, as the main church within these communities and a focal point be used as the name of the Ward.</p>
Roker	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	Covers the key community within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Ryhope	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	Covers the key community within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Sandhill	Change to Grindon and Thorney Close	Covers the key communities within the proposed ward boundary. This proposal has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Shiney Row	Change to Penshaw and Shiney Row	Change will ensure coverage of the largest communities within the new

		ward boundary. This proposal has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Southwick	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	By far the largest community within the ward and, if our proposals are accepted, will be the existing name that residents are used to over the past 20 years. It also has historical links to Southwick UDC that incorporated much of the proposed ward.
Tunstall and Humbledon	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	Covers the key communities within the proposed ward boundary and has cross party support as per letter issued from Sunderland Council Chief Executive to the commission.
Washington Central	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	Residents view themselves as from Washington first and then their specific community. By maintaining the existing names, the commission is reinforcing that community identify and is therefore fully supported.
Washington East	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	
Washington North	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	
Washington South	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	
Washington West	Agree with Boundary Commission proposal	

## 7. Summary of proposed changes

In summary we are proposing the impact of our proposed amendments to the boundary commission will result in the following outcomes:

	New Ward Name	Electorate in 2029	Variance from Average
1	Barnes and Thornhill	9008	2%
2	Castle (Hylton Castle)	8261	-7%
3	Central	8100	-8%
4	Copt Hill (Houghton South & Hetton Downs)	7678	-13%
5	Doxford	8663	-2%
6	Fulwell	8761	-1%
7	Grindon and Thorney Close (Sandhill)	8766	-1%
8	Hendon and Grangetown (Grangetown)	8673	-2%
9	Herrington	8936	+1%



10	Hetton	9702	+10%
11	Houghton (Houghton North)	9151	+3%
12	Pallion	9517	+8%
13	Pennywell & South Hylton (Pennywell)	9496	+7%
14	Penshaw and Shiney Row (Shiney Row)	9457	+7%
15	Redhill (Redhouse)	8238	-7%
16	Roker	7995	-10%
17	Ryhope	9347	+6%
18	Silksworth & Farringdon (Farringdon & Silksworth)	9726	+10%
19	Southwick	9382	+6%
20	Tunstall & Humbledon	8934	+1%
21	Washington Central	8380	-5%
22	Washington East	8945	+1%
23	Washington North	8813	0%
24	Washington South	8178	-8%
25	Washington West	9066	+2%

## **Review of draft boundary proposals - City of Sunderland**

### **Submission from Washington & Gateshead South CLP**

Can we start off by thanking the commission for their hard work in undertaking a review of the 25 wards within the boundary of Sunderland. There is much to commend about work undertaken by the commission, though we do have some suggestions that we believe will further strengthen these proposals within our constituency boundaries.

#### **Ward Names**

In relation to the commission proposals, we can provide the following comments:

##### Washington

In relation to Washington, we fully support the commission proposal to retain existing ward names, noting that residents see themselves as primarily from Washington and not specific villages.

##### Hylton Castle

We are proposing that the Hylton Castle Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary, consisting of the former council housing estates of Hylton Castle and Town End Farm, together with the former UDC area of Castletown.

Your predecessors in the last review some 20 years ago also wrestled with an appropriate name for the ward, concluding that “the Castle”, as the most prominent feature of the ward, should be reflected in the name rather than any specific individual community. We are therefore proposing a name change to Castle Ward.

If you are unable to accept our proposal, then an alternative would be to incorporate the two largest communities of Castletown and Hylton Castle in the naming of the ward.

##### Redhouse

We are proposing that the Redhouse Ward within your draft proposals be renamed as we are of the view that the proposed name does not reflect the communities within the new boundary.

Again, as referenced above, your predecessors had some difficulty in linking a specific community to use in naming of the ward, noting that it consisted of distinct communities of Upper Redhouse, Lower Redhouse, Downhill, Witherwack, Town End Farm, Wear View, Castlemede. Since the previous review we have also had the addition of the Castle Rise estate and the proposed area of Wentbridge if retained within the new ward boundary.

Your predecessors, in coming to a conclusion, took “Red” from Redhouse and “hill” from Downhill to come up with the “Redhill” name. As there has been no demand from residents for a name change, we would request the commission reconsider its decision and revert back to the Redhill Ward name. If this is not agreeable, then again, as with above, we would suggest St. Cuthbert’s as the prominent building in the ward be considered rather than any specific community. If the use of community names are a red line for the commission, then we would suggest the two biggest communities of Redhouse and Downhill be reflected in the naming of the ward.

## **Ward Boundaries**

In relation to your draft ward boundaries, we would propose the following:

### Washington

We have some concerns over the misplacement of Washington Village (district V05) into your proposed boundary for Washington East. The centre of Washington – the village – surely needs to be in the Washington Central ward?

We would therefore refer you back to our original submission (copy enclosed) and ask you to reconsider this as a viable alternative.

### Hylton Castle

we fully endorse the proposals put forward by the commission in respect of the draft boundary of the ward, noting that the boundary maintains the principle of good electoral equality, while maintaining existing community identities.

### Redhouse

we would request that the commission reconsider the move of Marley Pots estate (within the current U01 area of Southwick) and place this back within the proposed Southwick Ward (see streets impacted below).

Arday Court	Ashwood Ave	Beechwood Cr	Chestnut Cr	Elmwood Ave
Hazlewood Ave	Hollywood Ave	Landuf Close	Maplewood Ave	Marley Cr
Mulberry Ave	North Hylton Rd	Oaklands Cr	Old Mill Rd	Pinewood Sq
Pinewood Sq	The Poplars	Yewtree Ave	Redcar Rd	

While we note that on a map, a boundary using Old Mill Road would seem logical, it does not take into consideration the local linkage of this former Council estate with Southwick, being part of the area since it was built just after WWII. The residents consider themselves as part of Southwick, with the area itself being traced as far back as Southwick Urban District Council. While over the passage of time the boundary of Southwick Ward has changed, Marley Pots being part of it has not and in recent times can be traced back as part of the ward to the local government reorganisation of 1973.

Your proposals also suggest an area bordering Witherwack (Wentbridge/Whitchurch Road area within U03 polling area, a total of 67 electors) should be moved from the existing Southwick Ward. We are of the view that your suggestion in this case is the

right one as there is no historical linkage to Southwick and the area is adjacent to the Witherwack estate.

We did consider whether new housing being built on the former Sunderland College site within U03 (a total of 164 anticipated electors) that sits between Redhouse and Marley Pots and without established community links could also be retained, but on balance were of the opinion these properties would sit more as an extension of Marley Pots and the appropriate fit would be Southwick Ward. However, we are open to the commission considering this as an option.

The resulting revised ward will have an electorate of 8238 with a variance from the average of -7%.

#### Additional comments

In relation to your wider draft proposals, we can confirm our endorsement of:

- The limited proposals put forward by the council through its cross-party working group.
- The city-wide proposals put forward on behalf of Sunderland Labour Group

We believe that our suggested amendments will strengthen those put forward and in doing so have been guided – as has the commission – by ensuring these recommended changes:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Where we have found these principles in conflict we have prioritised community links, as have the commission in their draft proposals, which we welcome.

Please therefore find enclosed below our submission to the Commission's consultation on draft ward boundaries

Yours sincerely

Councillor Paul Stewart  
Chair  
Washington and Gateshead South CLP

*Enc. Previous submission to boundary commission*

# **Sunderland Ward Boundary Review**

## **Submission by Washington & Sunderland West CLP**

Washington and Sunderland West Constituency Labour Party welcome the decision of the Boundary Commission to provide a short extension to the deadline for this initial public consultation stage on the linkage of communities within the city boundaries that make up the 25 current wards and their proposed revision.

In making our submission we have taken the knowledge from our Councillors, wider party membership, as well as our local residents with a view to help ensure that there is minimum disruption to existing communities. In doing so we have adhered to some key criteria in coming to our conclusions as follows:

### **Criteria 1**

We believe that it is essential to ensure that revised ward boundaries are co-terminus with the new parliamentary boundaries now in place that will impact on Sunderland as a whole and our constituency, as referenced below:

- Washington and Gateshead East
- Houghton and Sunderland South
- Sunderland Central

Due to this being our overriding priority, we believe the commission should take each parliamentary boundary in turn to show how, in our opinion, we can ensure that residents in each of the 25 wards will have both a consistent set of Councillors but also their member of Parliament.

Our detailed assessment within this submission will show how this can be achieved within our own revised constituency boundaries.

### **Criteria 2**

We note the number of electors proposed by the commission for their key target date of 2029 and, considering there is no proposal to remove the existing 3 councillors for each ward, that the average number of electors as set by the commission for the

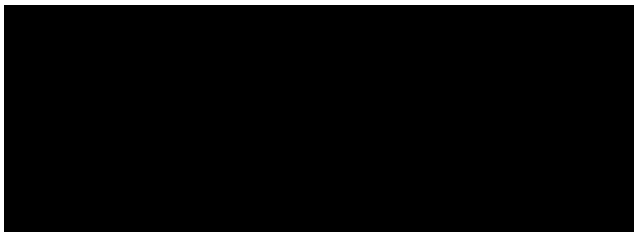
revised 25 wards will be 8847 within 10% tolerance levels of 7963 (Min) and 9731 (max).

Looking at existing ward boundaries within our constituency we have therefore looked to ensure a minimum disruption to current community boundaries except:

- a. Where there is a requirement to amend community boundaries to meet minimum/maximum thresholds set by the commission,
- b. Where there is a need to right any anomaly that may have arisen from the previous review,
- c. Where a change relates to a direct request from residents to move community boundaries,

Please therefore find enclosed below our submission to the Commission for consideration on community boundaries within the City of Sunderland, specifically relating to those wards within the new Washington and Gateshead East Parliamentary Constituency.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Paul Stewart,  
Chair, Washington & Sunderland West CLP

# Washington and Gateshead East Proposals

The current review will impact on the following wards within the boundary of the new parliamentary constituency of Washington & Gateshead East:

- Redhill
- Castle
- Washington North
- Washington East
- Washington West
- Washington South
- Washington Central

The total proposed electorate for these wards by 2029 will be 59,814, with an average 8545 electors per ward or 2848 electors per councillor. These are well within the tolerance levels of the boundary commission and allow for the existing number of wards (7) to be maintained within the new parliamentary boundary.

In applying our criteria, we therefore propose the following new revised ward boundaries.

## **Redhill Ward**

This Ward is situated on the border with the neighbouring constituency of Sunderland Central. With a proposed electorate of 8171 in 2029, this will be within the tolerance levels set by the commission, and we therefore propose no change.

This will ensure that the whole community within Redhill Ward will have the same member of parliament as they do at present and meet the criteria we have set to minimise community disruption.

## **Recommendation**

We therefore propose no change to Redhill Ward

## **Castle Ward**

Resting between Redhill Ward and the A19 the proposed electorate in 2029 of 8261 electors is also within the tolerance levels set by the commission and therefore we consider there is no requirement for a change in ward boundaries at this time.

This will ensure that the community within Castle Ward will meet the criteria we have set to minimise community disruption.

## **Recommendation**

We therefore propose no change to Castle Ward

## **Washington South**

In having a proposed electorate of 7838 in 2029, Washington South is the only ward within this constituency that will have an electorate below the threshold set by the Commission.

In looking at options for increasing the electorate to ensure compliance with the commission, we have considered a number of options. In reviewing these we have been also guided by the geography of the ward and the current significant road barriers between local communities consisting of the A1(M), A1231, A182 and A195.

This in our opinion leaves only one realistic option for increasing the existing electorate of Washington South through the adding an additional part of the Lambton community from Washington Central (polling district V01).

We have therefore looked at several options relating to the community of Lambton and the subsequent impact this will have on ward boundaries across Washington.

## **Option 1**



A minimalist approach to the disruption to the community of Lambton, which is currently already split between both wards, would be through simply extending the boundary with Washington South along Malvern Road. This would consist of moving the following streets into Washington South from Washington Central (district V01) and provide for an additional 340 electors (based upon the electoral register in June 2023).

- Cotswold Close (117 electors)
- Caradoc Close (75 electors)
- Chiltern Close (65 electors)
- Malvern Road No 1-49 (83 electors)

This option will ensure the revised electoral figures for Washington South of 8178 and within the minimum thresholds set by the commission.

### Option 2

We did look at consideration of moving the whole community of Lambton into Washington South (the electoral register at June 2023 showed this as 1118 electors) and while this would ensure the community boundaries were retained, we have rejected this as a realistic option due to impact on Washington Central and the subsequent requirement to significantly amend its boundaries beyond the A1231 or A195, resulting in considerable disruption to communities within other parts of Washington.

### Recommendation

We consider option 1 to be viable solution for increasing the electorate for Washington South and, through adhering to our set criteria, will cause minimum disruption and on balance we are recommending this to the commission.

### Washington Central

Washington Central will have an electorate of 8541 by 2029 and is therefore compliant within the criteria set by the commission. The boundary of the existing community rests predominantly between the major road network of the A1231 and

the A195. These are considered significant barriers to local communities and movement beyond these, we believe, should only be considered if there are no other options to ensure compliance with the min/max criteria set by the commission.

In applying our own criteria that has governed this submission we would have recommended no change, but for the need to move some of the electorate in district V01 into Washington South that will reduce Central ward by 340 electors (see Washington South proposals for details).

In addition, the local councillors for both Washington East and Central have received representations as part of their local consultation from residents to move their isolated community within Washington East (district W05) into Washington Central, the impact being an increase of 179 electors as at June 2023. The streets affected are:

- Barmston Close (34 electors)
- Barmston Court (76 Electors)
- Station Road ( 12 electors)
- Lakeside Gardens (57 electors)

Though this suggestion goes against our guiding criteria, the voice of the residents were clear that they consider themselves part of the wider community of Columbia, which is based within Washington Central.

The loss of 340 electors to Washington South and the gain of 179 electors from Washington East will result in 2029 an electorate of 8380.

### Recommendation

We consider this to be viable solution for increasing the electorate for Washington South and accommodating the specific request from a small number of residents in Washington East. Following our set criteria this will be achieved with minimal impact on the current community of Washington Central. On balance we are recommending these changes to the commission.

## **Washington North**

The proposed size of North Ward in 2029 of 8688 does not require any adjustment. However, local councillors from Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area, currently within Washington West (district of Z04), and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
- Kellett Close (42 electors)

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect residents requests and will have a slight impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North to 8813 and reduce the size of Washington West by 125 electors.

### **Recommendation**

We therefore recommend these minor changes to the commission for Washington North at the request of residents, while ensuring we adhere to our criteria of minimising disruption to the community.

## **Washington East**

Washington East will have a proposed electorate of 9124 in 2029 and is therefore within the tolerance levels set by the commission and therefore, under these circumstances, we would propose no change in the community boundaries.

However, we have received a request from residents in a relatively isolated community within Washington East (district W05) to move into Washington Central, the impact being an reduction of 179 electors for the East ward. For details, please see proposals for Central ward.

We consider this a relatively minor change to reflect residents requests while ensuring that disruption to the community within Washington East Ward is minimised.

### Recommendation

We consider this to be viable solution for Washington East to accommodate the specific request from a small number of residents and on balance we are recommending these changes to the commission.

### **Washington West**

Washington West will have a proposed electorate of 9191 in 2029 and is therefore within the tolerance levels set by the commission and does not require any adjustment.

However, as referenced earlier, local councillors in Washington North and West have received representations from residents in the following area currently within Washington West (district of Z04) and for these areas to be moved into Washington North.

- Well Bank Road – Part only up to George Washington primary (183 electors)
- Kellett Close (42 electors)

This will have an impact of increasing the electorate of Washington North by 125 electors and reduce the size of Washington West to 9066 electors.

### Recommendation

We therefore recommend these minor changes to the commission for Washington West at the request of residents, while ensuring we adhere to our criteria of minimising disruption to the community.

### **Conclusion**

The outcome of these recommended proposals for electorate size in 2029, within the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East, would be within the tolerance levels set by the commission and achieved with the minimum disruption to local communities as shown below:

	Electors as at 2029 with current boundaries	Electorate in 2029 if recommendations accepted
Castle	8261	8261
Redhill	8171	8171
Washington South	7838	8178
Washington Central	8541	8380
Washington North	8688	8813
Washington West	9191	9066
Washington East	9124	8945

We therefore recommend these proposals, relating to the new constituency of Washington and Gateshead East to the commission for consideration.