

Newcastle upon Tyne

Personal Details:

Name: Mark Ridyard

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Liberal Democrat Group (Political groups)

Comment text:

Please see attached the submission for Newcastle upon Tyne for the Liberal Democrat group.

I've attached the proposal as a pdf of a Google docs document and then I hope I have attached the appropriate shape file. (Please let me know if not, the export creates about 6 different file formats and I hope I have sent the right one)

For the shape file any slight differences vs the current ward or polling boundaries are not intentionally different unless otherwise stated.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Attached Documents:

- ward-boundary-submission---mar-24---google-docs---final.pdf

Newcastle Upon Tyne Ward Boundaries Proposal

Newcastle upon Tyne Liberal Democrats Group

Background

In Newcastle upon Tyne there has been significant population growth to the west of the A1 and a reduction of voters in the City centre and inner East (often due to deregistering of students).

Newcastle also has some very definite major geographic and community boundaries that the current ward boundaries roughly respect, although there are some improvements that can be made and will be proposed in this document.

Summary

We recommend

- Respecting major Geographic and Community boundaries in Newcastle and then subdividing wards within these major boundaries
- Increasing the number of wards West of the A1 by 1 to match the increasing population
- Reducing the number of wards in Jesmond and Ouseburn by 1 to match the reduction in population
- Rebalancing Benwell and Elswick to manage the increasing population and moving some of Elswick into Arthur's Hill and Monument to balance the reducing population.
- For the rest of the city, the ward identities will stay similar to what we have today, but with some changes at the edges to ensure we meet the electoral equality criteria

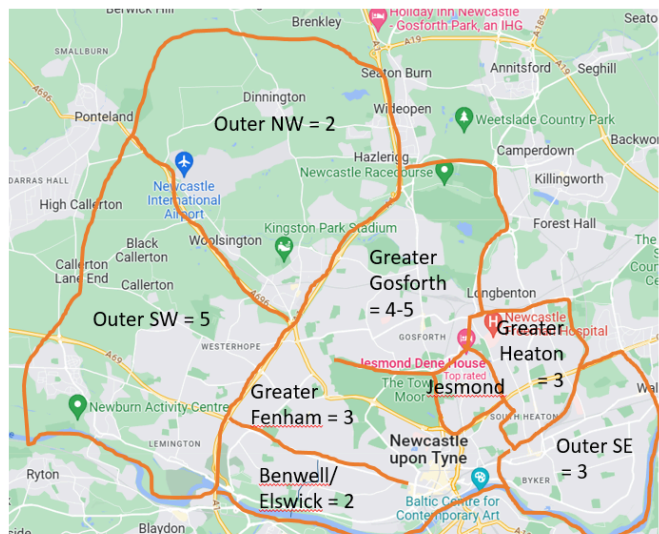
Major Geographic boundaries

The core of this proposal weighs on "Communities", and within Newcastle the major community boundaries are governed by major roads, parks and rivers. These don't split to the exact sizes for electoral equality, but with the fact that some of these zones don't have a geographic ending, means that it is possible to use these zones as the basis and still match the electoral equality requirement. As we will see this will mean that in some areas we will see wards at around 5-10% below average, and others at about 5-10% above average, but it is believed that respecting the community boundaries in these cases is better than getting closer to a 0% variance.

I

Starting with core zone boundaries. (See image to the right)

- The A1 – separates the West and then the, A696 separates the Outer west into North and South
- The West Rd separates Benwell and Elswick
- The Town Moor splits Gosforth and Fenham
- The Ouseburn river is the west Boundary of Heaton
- Walker, Byker and Walkergate are separated by the railway line to the



north and the Ouseburn to the west, to form the "Outer South East"
There is a small amount of flex at the edges of these zones, where a boundary is less clear

In the next section, within these zones, splits will be proposed to get the right numbers for electoral equality based on the best community boundaries. It is rare to find communities of 7700 required by exacting electoral equality; for example Blakelaw is about 6000, Kingston Park about 5000, Heaton about 10,000, High Heaton about 11,000; but the approach has been to maintain the core of a given self-identifying community.

This document will be split into 2 blocks

- New and significantly altered wards
- Ward boundary rebalancing for Electoral equality.

New and significantly altered wards

West of the A1

In this zone there are 54,672 people which gives 7810 as an average ward size, which is exceptionally close to the target of 7700 per ward and confirms the A1 as an excellent boundary. Within this we propose a split:

Outer NW - North of the A696, there are 14,987, at an average of 7493, this represents an excellent geographic and community boundary and good electoral equality.

This part of the city has

- Rapid growth with the creation of the “Great Park” area
- Kingston Park, that in the existing ward boundaries was tied across the A696 to Newbiggin Hall, where there are not strong community ties.
- Woolsington, that was previously a part of a very large Throckley and Callerton ward, and was not very well geographically connected



The proposal is to create 2 wards

- “Castle” which will be reshaped to be the Great Park, Brunswick, Hazelrigg
- “Kingston Park and Dinnington” - which will take in the whole of Kingston Park and stretch up the north side of the A696 to Woolsington and Dinnington who both surround the airport and so have similar needs and interests.

Outer SW - South of the A696 there are 39,188 at an average of 7838.

In this zone the key challenge is the 3 areas of Chapel, Denton and Westerhope which are today combined into 2 wards,

“Chapel” and “Denton and Westerhope” with an East:West split. (It is worth noting that prior to 2016 there was a North:South split with Westerhope to the north and Denton to the South). These areas have slightly more than 2 wards worth of electors and so we propose to maintain the East:West split but to trim these wards at the edges to maintain electoral equality in the zone.



- West edge of the Chapel ward where there is significant new building will move to the Throckley and Walbottle ward, where there are close “North Walbottle” connections.
- North East of Denton and Westerhope ward which is separated by Stamfordham Rd and will move to “Newbiggin Hall and Callerton” Ward.

Of the remaining areas of the zone

- Lemington remains untouched versus current boundaries.

- “Newbiggin Hall and Callerton” is a new ward. Per the outer North West moves, Newbiggin Hall gave Kingston Park away and instead takes Callerton to make a more logical community boundary and maintain good electoral equality.
- “Throckley and Walbottle”. There is significant building in this ward and Throckley and Walbottle have good community and geographic ties . This also facilitates the break up of the historic Throckley and Callerton ward, which spanned a very large geographic area and did not represent related communities very well.

Jesmond and Ouseburn

Primarily due to the deregistering of students the 3 historic wards of North Jesmond, South Jesmond and Ouseburn only have enough electors to fill two wards - 15,223 at 7611 per ward.

The Coast Road is a strong geographic split in this zone, and is well recognised by the local community. We also propose a minor change at the western boundary with Monument to bring in the rest of the Shieldfield community and make the Central Motorway the boundary which is a well recognised separator of communities.

This gives Jesmond 7,146 and Ouseburn 8,297.

The authors considered moving Jesmond Vale (remainder of V02) in the North East of Ouseburn to

Jesmond, but as an area of 984 electors, and there is a good argument for this area to be with either of the two proposed wards.

We also propose that Heaton Park returns to Ouseburn per the pre-2016 boundaries.

Heaton Park is surrounded on by the Ouseburn ward so this fits well with the community, and also splits the Heaton and Armstrong Parks between Ouseburn and Heaton.



Benwell, Elswick and Arthur's Hill, Monument

Benwell, Scotswood, Elswick are well defined geographically to the north by the West Road but as you reach the City of Newcastle the east end is less well defined.

Within the last few years there has been significant building in “The Rise” which means the current Benwell

ward is 20%

high versus citywide target whereas

Arthur's Hill and Monument

wards are both about 20% low

versus that target. It is also worth noting that there are multiple sub communities within the Benwell Elswick zone such as Scotswood and South Benwell. The proposal is as follows

- Benwell and Scotswood- move the boundary to the west, to a point that represents electoral equality. The exact boundary is proposed to be at Hodgkin Park which creates a good natural split in the area.



- Elswick - move the boundary to the west to a point that represents electoral equality and give the north part of the ceded area to Arthur's Hill and the south part to Monument so that they both also reach electoral equality.
- Arthur's Hill - maintains the current ward boundaries in most directions but takes in 1650 electors from the old Elswick ward at the NorthEast corner, where the natural community does cross the Westgate Rd.
- Monument - the ward is extended to the west up to Elswick Park. The boundary of Monument at its west edge was historically complex this simplifies it and also allows room for growth should the proposed "Quayside West" development be created and which would be of a similar style to the current Quayside East which is already within the Monument ward. On the East side 220, the northern area to the East of the Coast Road is moved to Ouseburn (as mentioned in the Jesmond/Ouseburn section) as this is a part of the Shieldfield community.

Ward boundary balancing for Electoral equality.

Greater Gosforth

The key change needed in this zone is to reduce Parklands by about 1600 electors to maintain electoral equality in a way that balances community boundaries.

To do this there is a bit of a knock on effect to ensure electoral equality is maintained across all the wards in the zone. The proposal is as follows

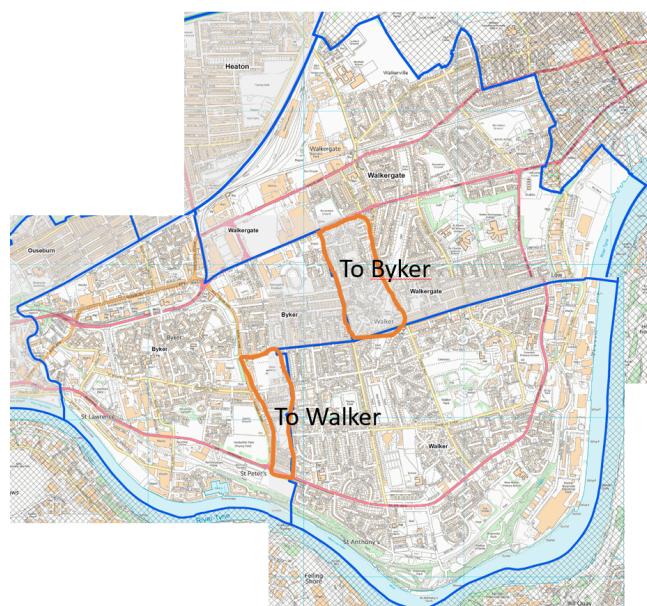
- Move the Grange estate into Fawdon and West Gosforth from Parklands.
- Move the St Nicholas Polling district from Fawdon and West Gosforth to Gosforth.
- Extend the South Gosforth part of the Dene and South Gosforth ward to the North West, the edge of this community is not well defined and it is expected that residents in this zone could see themselves as either Gosforth or South Gosforth.



Outer SE

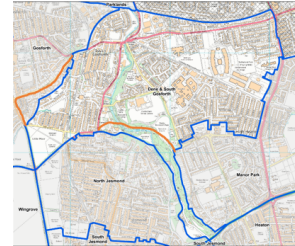
This zone is well defined on most sides, but the balance between wards is a little out of kilter and needs to be rebalanced. Whilst the zone has well defined outer boundaries and the areas of Walker, Byker and Walkergate have very well defined centres, the exact cutover from one area to the next is not so clear. The proposal is to keep to touch as few boundaries as possible versus the current position.

- At the west of the current Walker ward add the area up to Allendale Road. This is an area which most would consider to be Walker and is supported by shops on Allendale Road labelling themselves as Walker.
- At the North East of the current Byker extending into Walkergate to take the area from Roman Avenue to Scrogg Road. The estate is naturally part of St Anthony's rather than Walkergate (there is even a sign on Roman Avenue to this effect). The western side of the estate is already in the Byker ward - as was the eastern side as well on the 2004-2016 boundaries. The boundary between St Anthony's and Walkergate runs naturally (north-south) along Scrogg Road. The housing styles/ownership models vary significantly either side of Scrogg Road (private owner-occupiers to the east – the former council Roman Avenue estate to the west).



Greater Heaton and South Gosforth

Beyond the changes mentioned above in the Greater Gosforth zone to slightly increase Dene and South Gosforth, there would be only one other minor change in this zone to move the Jesmond Dene area from Dene and South Gosforth and to split it between the Jesmond and Manor Park wards. Whilst there are only a few electors in this area, this would represent a better geographic connection with the two wards to the East and West. Beyond this Manor Park and Heaton wards will keep their current boundaries, which already represent good community boundaries and electoral equality.

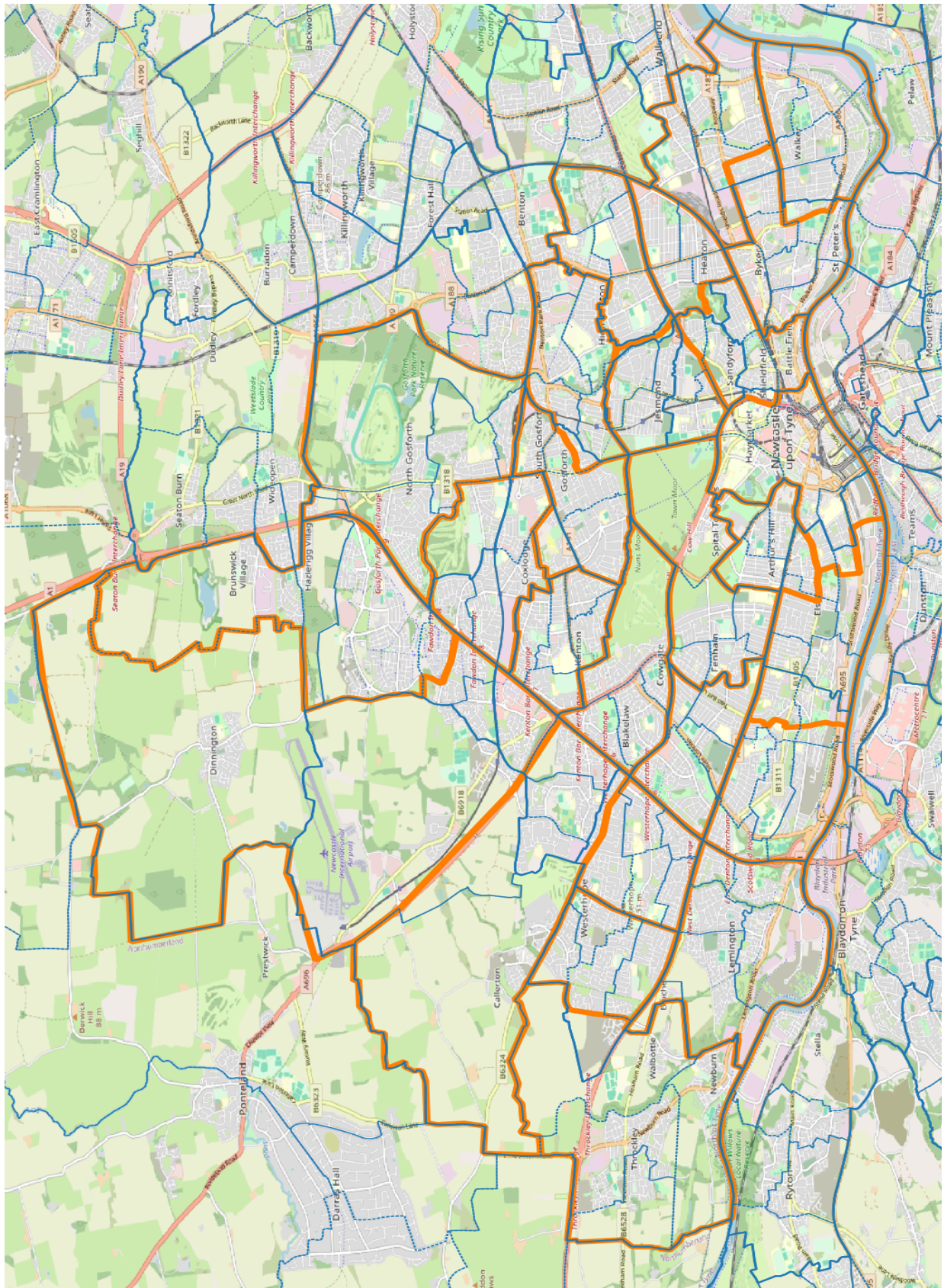


Greater Fenham

There will be no changes in this zone versus current boundaries with Blakelaw, West Fenham and Wingrove remaining as they are currently.

Appendix - Details Maps

Citywide - Summary view versus existing boundaries

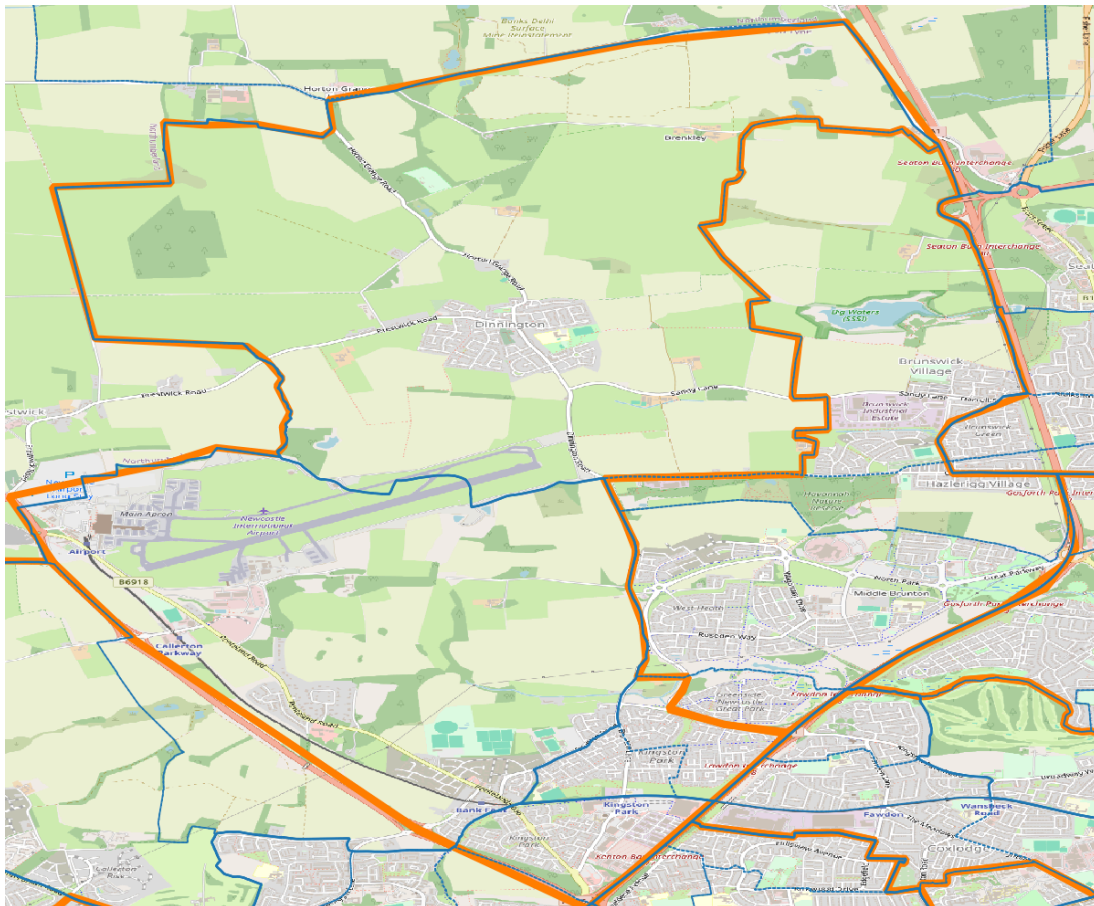


In all of the following maps the intent is for the boundaries to follow the existing Ward and Polling district boundaries unless otherwise mentioned.

When a polling district is split, the estimate of electors between the two sides of this split has been calculated using a third party tool with a knowledge of the exact street address of each elector. This ratio across the split is calculated based on the current data and then has been scaled up for the increase in electors by 2029 across the polling district.

All splits are shown in this document at 0 decimal places but in the final summary calculations the decimals were tracked.

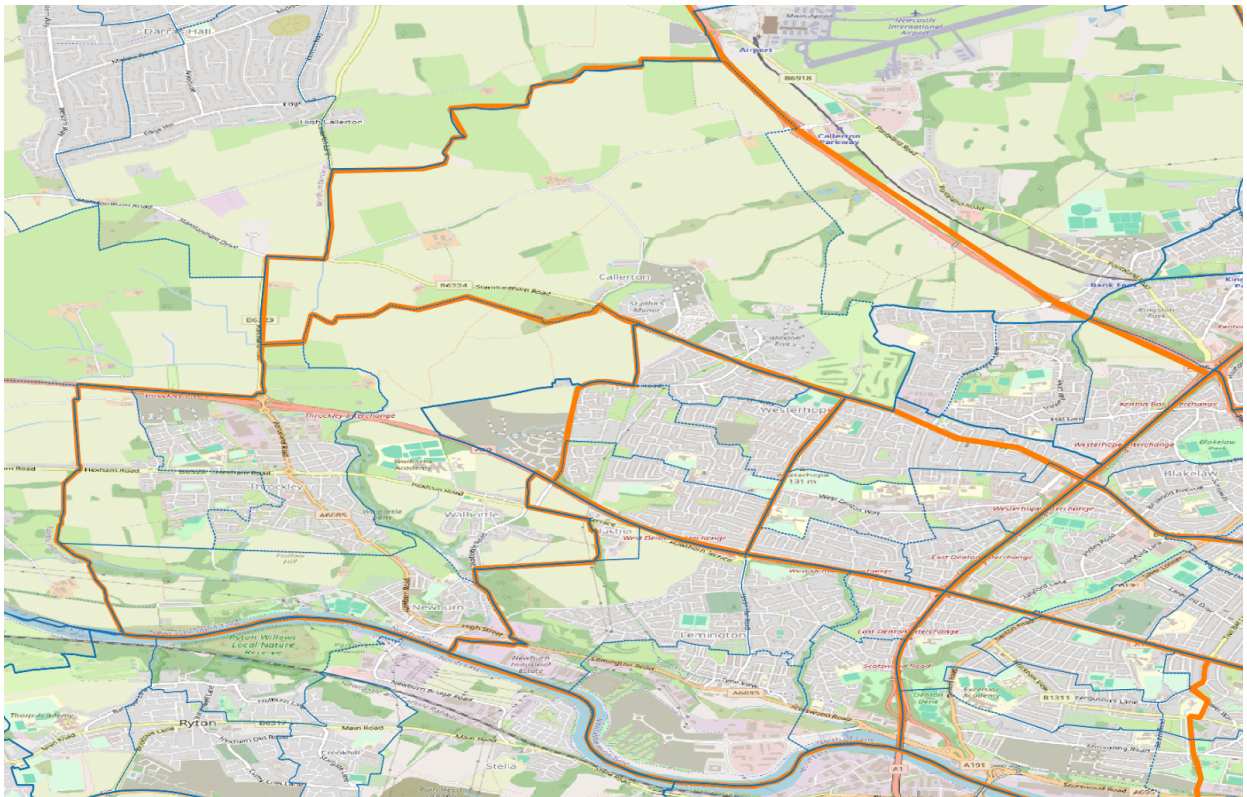
Outer North West - Castle and Kingston Park and Dinnington



Castle is based on F02, F03 and F04 and 32% of F05

Kingston Park and Dinnington is based on F01, F06, 68% of F05, E06 and 99+% of O04

Outer South West



Newbiggin Hall and Callerton is based on O01, O02, O03, E05 and 19% of I04

Denton and Westerhope is based on I01, I02, I03, I05 and 81% of I04

Chapel is based on G01, G02, G03 and 90% of G04

Lemington is based on P01-P06 (unchanged)

Throckley and Walbottle is based on E01, E02, E02, E04 + 10% of G02. It also includes all the new builds in the G02 polling district at 674

Jesmond and Ouseburn



Jesmond is based on S01, S02, S03 V01 and 48% of V02

Ouseburn is based on T01, T02, T03, V03, 52% of V02, 48% of R04. It also takes Heaton Park.

Benwell and Scotswood, Elswick, Arthur's Hill and Monument



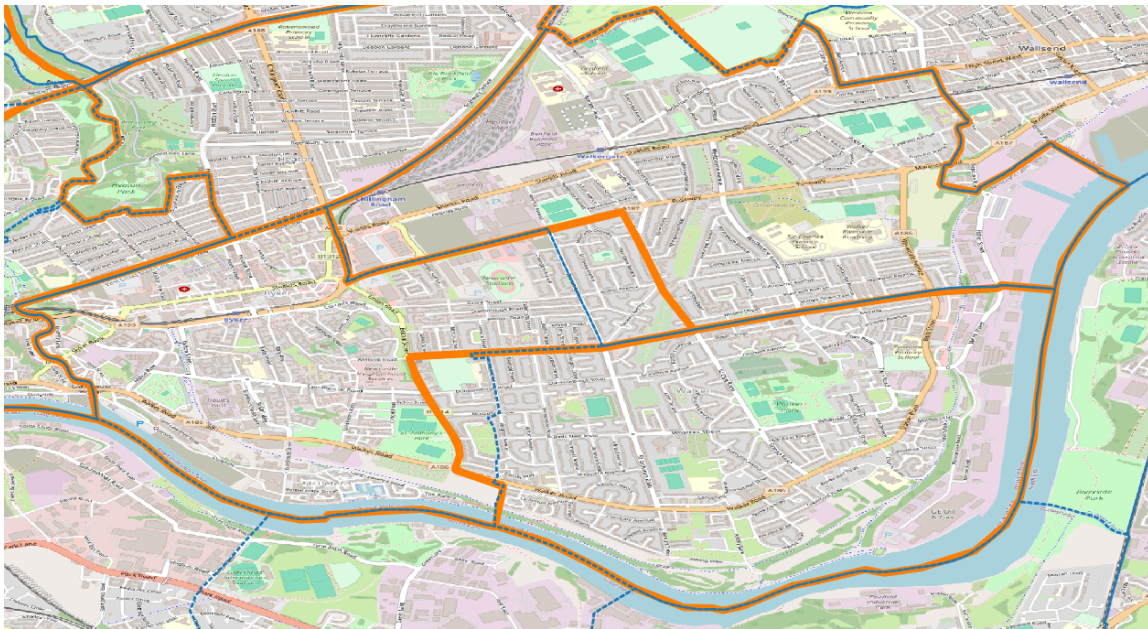
Benwell and Scotswood - B01, B02, B03, B06, 28% of B04, 25% of B05

Elswick - J01, J05, 72% B04, 75% B05, 37% J02, 4% J03, 92% J04,

Arthur's Hill - A01, A02, A03, A04, 68% J03, 92% J04,

Monument - R01, R02, R03, 52% of R04, R05, 63% J02, 28% J03

Outer SE - Byker, Walker and Walkergate

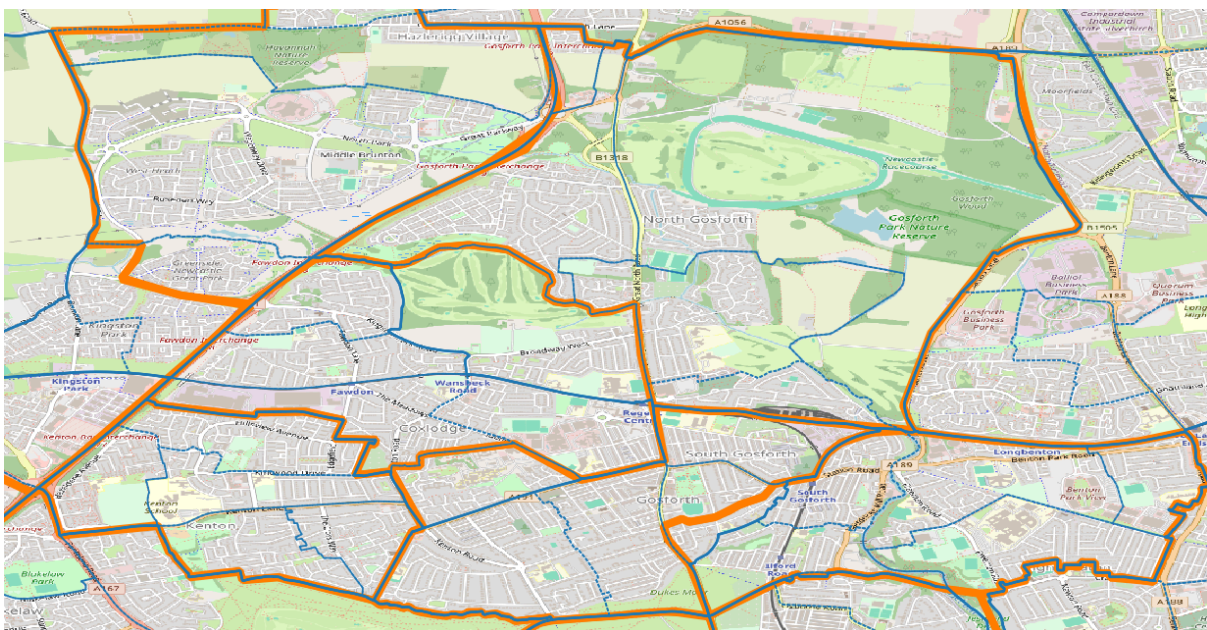


Byker - D01, D02, D03, D04, D05, 52% of D06, 38% of X04

Walker - W01, W02, W03, W04, W05, 48% of D06

Walkergate - X01, X02, X03, 62% of X04

Greater Gosforth - Parklands, Fawdon and West Gosforth, Kenton, Gosforth, Dene and South Gosforth



Parklands - U02, U03, U04, U05, U06

Fawdon and West Gosforth - U01, K01, K02, K03, K05

Kenton - N01 - N05 (unchanged)

Gosforth - N04, L01, L02, L04, 62% of L03

Dene and South Gosforth - H01, H02, H03, H04, H05, H06, 38% L03

New Ward Name	Estimated Electorate 2029	Variance
Arthur's Hill	7531	-2%
Benwell & Scotswood	7109	-8%
Blakelaw	7181	-7%
Byker	7837	2%
Castle	7595	-1%
Chapel	7629	-1%
Dene & South Gosforth	8139	6%
Denton & Westerhope	8255	7%
Elswick	7230	-6%
Fawdon & West Gosforth	8395	9%
Gosforth	8338	8%
Heaton	7778	1%
Kenton	7665	0%
Jesmond	7146	-7%
Kingston Park & Dinnington	7392	-4%
Lemington	7779	1%
Manor Park	7378	-4%
Monument	7179	-7%
Ouseburn	8297	8%
Parklands	7600	-1%
Throckley & Walbottle	7796	1%
Walker	7809	1%
Walkergate	7729	0%
West Fenham	7543	-2%
Wingrove	7577	-2%