



Northumberland
County Council

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024

Parliamentary Constituencies of

- **Blyth and Ashington**
- **Cramlington and Killingworth (part)**
 - **Hexham (part)**
- **North Northumberland**

**Publication of the Acting
Returning Officer's comments**

Introduction

Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. Last reviewed in 2019, Northumberland's review must start and finish between 1 October 2023 and 1 January 2025.

This document provides details of the review, along with the initial recommendations and comments of the Acting Returning Officer (ARO). Also, the election rules require the ARO to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling station and the ARO must allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as they think most convenient.

These recommendations will be open to all residents, stakeholders, and any interested parties. We shall be seeking representations from local disability groups on the accessibility and suitability of polling places. Any comments should be addressed in the first instance to PDReview@northumberland.gov.uk where they will be collated on behalf of the (Acting) Returning Officer.

We will consider the following factors:

- **Identifying new polling places:** We will look for new polling places in areas where the existing provision is unsuitable or unavailable.
- **Feedback:** We will consider feedback received following recent elections, consultation, from members of the public, elected members, and other stakeholders.
- **Accessibility:** We will try to ensure that every polling place is accessible to electors with disabilities.
- **Facilities:** We will make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- **Elector numbers:** We will try to comply with the Electoral Commission guidance on the maximum number of electors that should be allocated to a polling station which should not exceed 2,250.
- **Future housing developments:** We will consider the impact of proposed housing developments on polling station electorates.

Impact of new boundaries on the compulsory review process

Although not part of the statutory review process, local authorities can undertake a preliminary review of polling places to establish the suitability and identify potential alternatives where required.

In March 2024, Northumberland Council undertook such a review because of:

- Local Government boundary changes following a review of Northumberland's electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)
- The impact of new UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries, and
- Implementation of the significant legislative changes which form part of the Elections Act 2022.

Definition of Terms

UK Parliamentary constituency

- A geographical area that is represented by a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons.

Polling districts

- A Polling district is a geographical area created by the subdivision of a UK Parliamentary constituency. In England, each parish or parish ward is to be a separate polling district.

Polling places

- A polling place is the building or area in which polling station will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer (the official in each constituency who conducts an election).

Polling station

- A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.

Role of the Electoral Commission

The Commission does not have a role in the review process. However, it does play a role after the conclusion of the review.

Once we have published the results of the review, specified interested parties may make representations to the Commission to reconsider any polling districts and polling places. The Commission may ask us to make any alterations to the polling places that they think necessary. If the alterations are not made within two months, they may make the alterations themselves.

List of polling places by electoral division and Interactive Map

The following pages provide the proposed polling districts and polling places for Northumberland Council's electoral divisions and Parliamentary constituencies.

The associated interactive map can be viewed here:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/588ef120e6ad41c5b61913b62e376067>

Ponteland North

Division Name

D53

No comments were received during the preliminary review period.

Polling District Summary

Constituency Name(s):

Hexham

Formerly:

Berwick upon Tweed :
Hexham

Polling Station	Parish Name	Parish Ward	Polling Reference	Station Electorate Figures	Previous Reference	Change	Parish Seat	Previous Division
Belsay Estates Office [166]	Belsay		H25BEL	298	B84BEL	No	6	Ponteland North
Capheaton Village Hall [167]	Capheaton		H22CAP	83	B85CAP	No	5	Ponteland North
St Marys Church Hall [168]	Ponteland	Ponteland North	H32PON	2405	H56PON	Yes	4	Ponteland North