

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council

Electoral review

May 2023

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2023

A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Northumberland?	2
Our proposals for Northumberland	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Have your say	3
Review timetable	3
Analysis and draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Division boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations	7
Berwick-upon-Tweed and surrounding area	8
Alnwick and surrounding area	10
Rural West Northumberland	15
South Central Northumberland	18
Morpeth	21
Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	24
Bedlington and surrounding area	27
Blyth and Seaton Valley parishes	30
Cramlington	35
Ponteland and surrounding area	38
Prudhoe and surrounding area	40
Hexham	43
Rural South Northumberland	45
Conclusions	47
Summary of electoral arrangements	47
Parish electoral arrangements	47
Have your say	53
Equalities	57
Appendices	59

Appendix A	59
Draft recommendations for Northumberland	59
Appendix B	65
Outline map	65
Appendix C	68
Submissions received	68
Appendix D	69
Glossary and abbreviations	69

Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Liz Treacy
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Northumberland?

7 We are conducting a review of Northumberland County Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality.' Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The electoral divisions ('divisions') in Northumberland are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the county.

Our proposals for Northumberland

9 Northumberland should be represented by 69 councillors, two more than there are now.

10 Northumberland should have 68 divisions, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most divisions should change; 13 will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which division you vote in, which other communities are in that division, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your division name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 2 May 2023 to 10 July 2023. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed divisions as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new divisions to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 10 July 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 53 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Northumberland. We then held a period of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 November 2022	Number of councillors decided
22 November 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
6 February 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 May 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 July 2023	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 October 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our divisions.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create divisions with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2022	2028
Electorate of Northumberland	251,363	266,098
Number of councillors	69	69
Average number of electors per councillor	3,643	3,856

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one (Alnwick) of our proposed divisions for Northumberland are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2028.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

26 Northumberland County Council currently has 67 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of divisions that would be represented by 67 councillors. Northumberland County Council passed a resolution requesting the electoral review is carried out as a single-member review. In these instances, the Commission will endeavour wherever possible to produce a pattern of divisions in which each division is represented by a single councillor. We will only move away from this pattern of divisions should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of divisions will better reflect our statutory criteria.

28 We received six submissions that mentioned the number of councillors in response to our consultation on division patterns. One submission was in support of a council size of 67 councillors for Northumberland. The other five submissions suggested that 67 councillors was too many for Northumberland, but none offered any evidence to explain why this was the case. Only one submission suggested an alternative number. The number suggested was seven councillors.

Division boundaries consultation

29 We received 69 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included a county-wide proposal from Northumberland County Council. We also received a submission from the Green Party Group on Northumberland County Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

30 The county-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of one-councillor divisions for Northumberland. This county-wide scheme proposed that Northumberland be represented by 69 councillors representing 69 single-councillor divisions. This is an increase of two councillors on the existing number of 67 councillors, the figure upon which our division arrangements consultation was based. Northumberland County Council concluded that a division pattern of 69 councillors provided a better balance of divisions in the rural and urban areas allowing them to best meet the Commission's three statutory criteria of electoral equality, community identities and interests and effective and convenient local government.

31 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the increase of two councillors from 67 to 69 councillors did allow for a division pattern that better met the Commission's statutory criteria. We did not, however, consider that the Council's proposed patterns of divisions resulted in good levels of electoral

equality, with 20 of their 69 proposed divisions not providing for electoral equality within 10% of the average for the county. We have used this division pattern, in conjunction with the other evidence received as well as a detailed virtual tour, to develop our proposed draft recommendations. We had planned to visit Northumberland in person as part of our development of the draft recommendations, but unfortunately poor weather prevented this visit. We propose to reschedule this tour to later in the year prior to the development of our final recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations are based on the scheme submitted by Northumberland County Council. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries.

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for one two-councillor division and 67 single-councillor divisions. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–46 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Northumberland. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

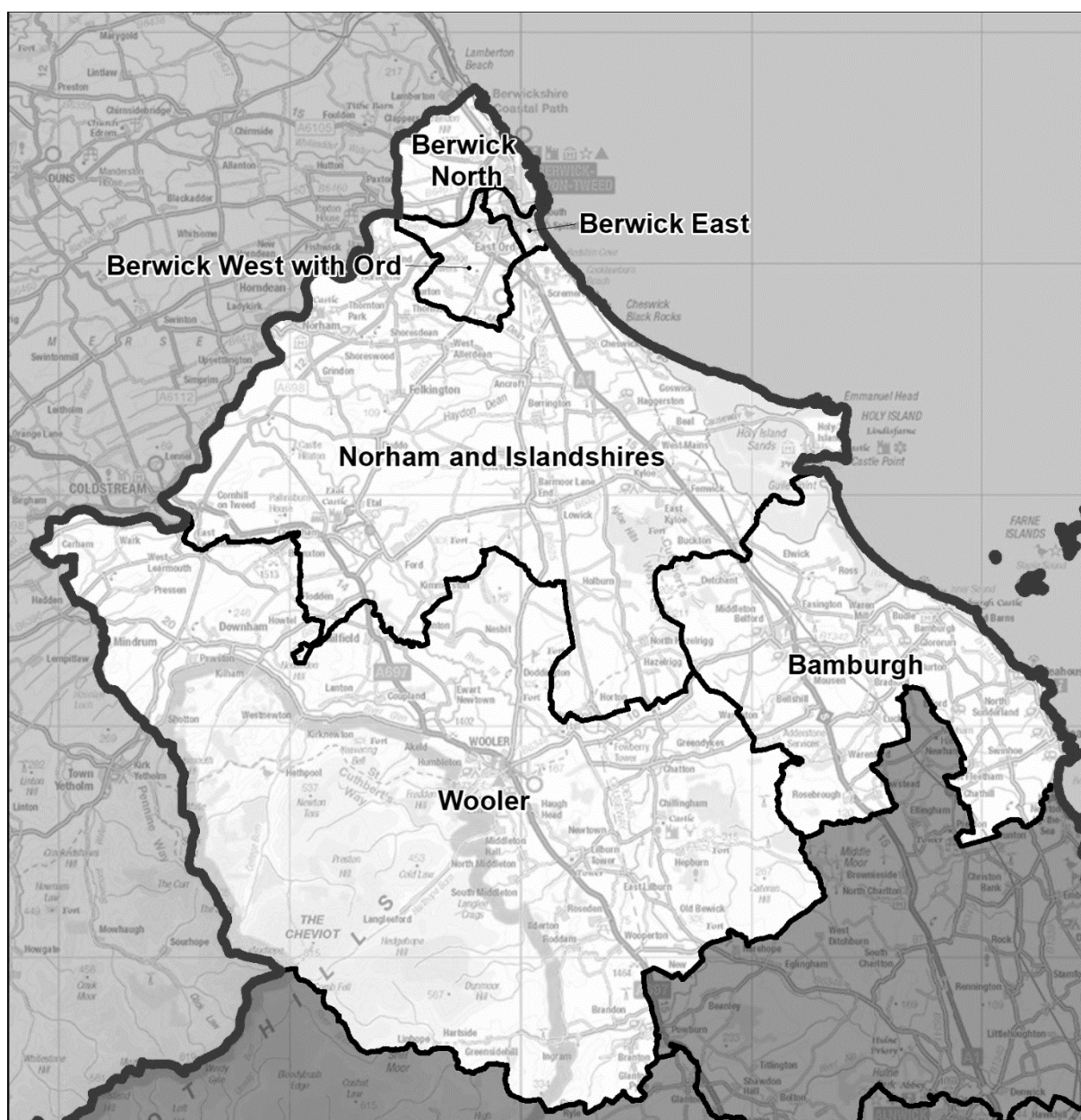
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 59 and on the large map accompanying this report.

36 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the division boundaries, and the names of our proposed divisions.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Berwick-upon-Tweed and surrounding area



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bamburgh	1	-4%
Berwick East	1	-3%
Berwick North	1	2%
Berwick West with Ord	1	-9%
Norham & Islandshires	1	-5%
Wooler	1	-7%

Berwick East, Berwick North and Berwick West with Ord

37 The Northumberland County Council ('Council') submission we received for this area proposed three divisions unchanged from the existing divisions. The Council noted that these three divisions would provide electoral equality for the area, arguing that maintaining these divisions would have no negative consequences for community ties.

38 We received two other submissions that made reference to the divisions in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Both of these submissions suggested that the three single-councillor divisions in Berwick-upon-Tweed and the neighbouring parish of Ord be combined into a three-councillor division. Other than an assertion that the current arrangement divided the town and arguing that a three-councillor division would provide better representation, the submission included no supporting evidence.

39 Having considered the submissions for this area we propose three divisions that are identical to the existing three divisions of Berwick East, Berwick North and Berwick West with Ord. We are of the view that the existing division pattern in Berwick-upon-Tweed reflects the communities within the town and provides electoral equality to these electors. We considered but reject the suggestion that Berwick-upon-Tweed should be covered by a three-councillor division. The Council requested that the review of Northumberland be conducted with the intention to create a pattern of single-councillor divisions across the county. To move away from this pattern, we require strong and compelling evidence to justify a multi-councillor division. We do not consider we have received such evidence for this area but would welcome further views from electors here.

40 For this area, we have therefore based our proposed divisions on the submission from Northumberland County Council. Our proposals are for three single-councillor divisions of Berwick East, Berwick North and Berwick West with Ord with electoral variances of -3%, 2% and -9% respectively by 2028.

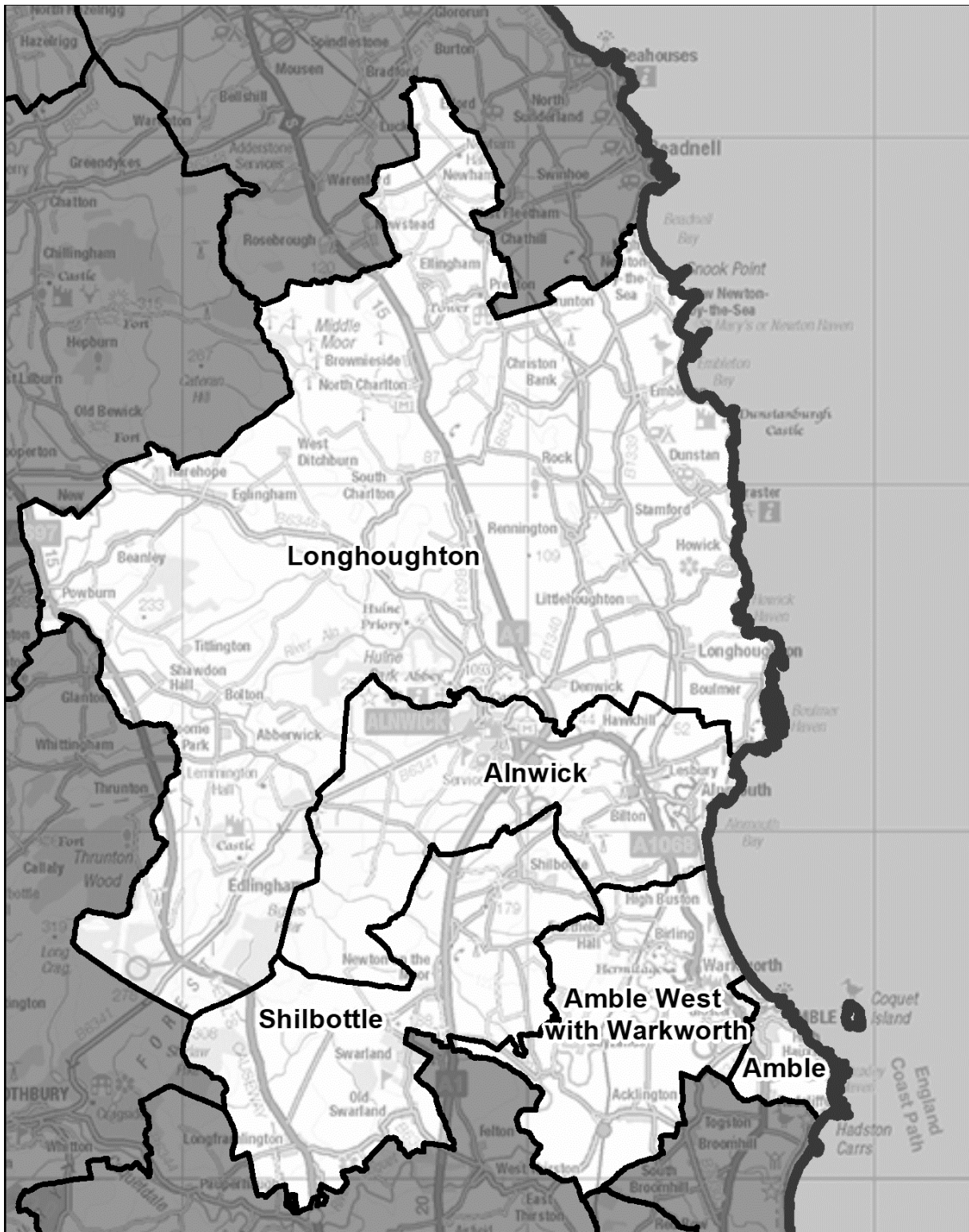
Bamburgh, Norham & Islandshires and Wooler

41 As above, the Council's submission for this area proposed three divisions unchanged from the existing divisions, citing similar arguments.

42 Other than two submissions that mentioned a proposal in an earlier iteration of the submission made to us by the Council regarding the boundary between Rothbury and Wooler, discussed later in this report, we received no other submissions relating to these three divisions.

43 Our draft recommendations are for three divisions of Bamburgh, Norham & Islandshires and Wooler as per the existing divisions. These three divisions will have electoral variances of -4%, -5% and -7%, respectively, by 2028.

Alnwick and surrounding area



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Alnwick	2	14%
Amble	1	5%
Amble West with Warkworth	1	0%

Longhoughton	1	-2%
Shilbottle	1	-6%

Alnwick and Longhoughton

44 Alnwick is currently represented by two councillors as part of a two-councillor division. It is the only two-councillor division and was proposed by the Commission at our last review in 2011. At the time, our reasoning was that whilst a single-councillor pattern had been requested this must be balanced against our statutory requirement to provide electoral equality, reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and provide effective and convenient local government. We concluded that a two-councillor Alnwick division best met this requirement.

45 The Council's submission proposed two single-councillor divisions of Alnwick East and Alnwick West. The Council's proposed divisions would have 17% more electors than average in Alnwick East and 11% more in Alnwick West. The Council noted that the two-councillor division is forecast to have 13% more electors than average by 2028. The Council stated that the three parish wards of Castle, Clayport and Hotspur meet as a single council (Alnwick Town Council) and any revision of the division boundary would have a negative impact on this community. They went on to reiterate their concern from the last review that the current arrangement for Alnwick of a two-councillor division would leave smaller communities around the town not adequately represented.

46 The Council's submission proposed two single-councillor divisions that, they suggest, 'provide a clear distinction between the market town and business district in the west and the rural areas in the east'. The Council's submission also proposed that the northern portion of the detached parish of Denwick containing Denwick village is included in an otherwise unchanged Longhoughton division. They suggested that the southern portion of the parish form part of their Alnwick West division.

47 We received 10 other submissions that made reference to the Alnwick area. These included submissions from Councillor Morphet on behalf of the Northumberland County Council Green Party Group, Councillor Swinbank (one of the two councillors for the existing division), Alnwick Civic Society and seven local residents. All but one of these submissions supported the retention of a two-councillor division for Alnwick.

48 Councillor Morphet stated that there was no way to divide Alnwick that did not split communities and that the submission made by the Council divided the heart of the town from the surrounding community. The councillor also stated that in their view two councillors provide for more convenient and effective local government, giving electors better representation and encouraging collaboration.

49 Councillor Swinbank shared the view that a two-councillor division provided the most effective local government for the town, adding further evidence that any division of the town would be along arbitrary boundaries. He added that the town functions as a single community that is geographically isolated from its neighbours. He stated that a two-councillor division would ensure all of the town's shopping, medical, leisure and schooling facilities remained in the same division as those who use them. The councillor also gave evidence of the links the neighbouring parishes of Lesbury and Alnmouth have with Alnwick, with Alnwick providing a service centre with strong transport links including the East Coast Main Line railway station in Alnmouth serving the town.

50 Alnwick Civic Society also supported the retention of the two-councillor division, stating that the proposed boundary to divide the town was arbitrary and could prove divisive. They were of the view that there was no evidence that the reasons given for a two-councillor division at the previous review had changed.

51 Of the seven local residents who also supported the two-councillor division, four live in either Lesbury or Alnmouth parish and reiterated their close community ties to Alnwick.

52 One local resident wrote in support of the division of Alnwick into two single-councillor divisions.

53 Having considered all of the submissions in great detail and having studied the area closely, we are of the view that the retention of a two-councillor division covering all of Alnwick, Lesbury and Alnmouth parish and the southern portion of Denwick parish reflects the community identity of electors in these parishes.

54 We were persuaded by the evidence that suggested that any division of the town into two single-councillor divisions would be on an arbitrary basis and would not reflect the strong sense of community in the town and its strong ties to Lesbury and Alnmouth parish. We agree with the Council that the northern portion of Denwick parish is better placed in Longhoughton and we propose to adopt the Council's suggested division for this area.

55 We noted that the number of electors in Alnwick, Lesbury and Alnmouth parishes and the southern portion of Denwick make it difficult for the area to be represented by a two-councillor division or two single-councillor divisions that provide acceptable electoral equality for the area. Any single-councillor pattern of divisions would produce divisions with at least 14% more electors than the average for the county. The only way to resolve this would be to include more electors from rural parishes further away from Alnwick in a division with the town. We did not consider that doing this would provide effective and convenient local government for those parishes.

56 Our proposed two-councillor Alnwick division will have 14% more electors than the average for Northumberland by 2028 but we consider that this level of electoral inequality is acceptable when balanced against the strong community ties and effective and convenient local government that results from a two-councillor division.

57 We are interested to hear further evidence in this area, particularly in relation to community identities and interests in Alnmouth, Alnwick, Denwick and Lesbury parishes. We would also be interested to look at alternative division patterns that could see the area represented by single-councillor divisions whilst meeting our three statutory criteria.

58 Our draft recommendations for this area are for a two-councillor Alnwick division with a variance of 14% and a single-councillor Longhoughton division with a variance of -2%

Amble and Amble West with Warkworth

59 The Council's submission for these two divisions proposed a small amendment to the boundary between Amble West with Warkworth and Amble to include the short road of Marks Bridge in Amble division. They also proposed to move the parish of Togston and the part of East Chevington parish currently in Amble division to Druridge Bay division. This unites all of East Chevington parish in Druridge Bay division. We discuss this proposal in full in the section on South Central Northumberland.

60 We received no further submissions that referred to this area. Having assessed this proposal we are of the view that the Council's submission provides the best balance of our criteria for the Amble area. We have therefore adopted the Council's scheme as part of our draft recommendations.

61 Our draft recommendations are for two single-councillor divisions of Amble and Amble West with Warkworth. These two divisions will have variances of 5% and 0% by 2028.

Shilbottle

62 The existing Shilbottle division will have extremely poor electoral equality of 19% by 2028 if left unchanged. The Council proposed to leave this division unchanged as part of their submission. The only other submission we received for Shilbottle related to the provision of polling stations. This matter falls within the purview of Northumberland County Council who will conduct a review of polling places as a consequence of this review in advance of the first election on the new divisions.

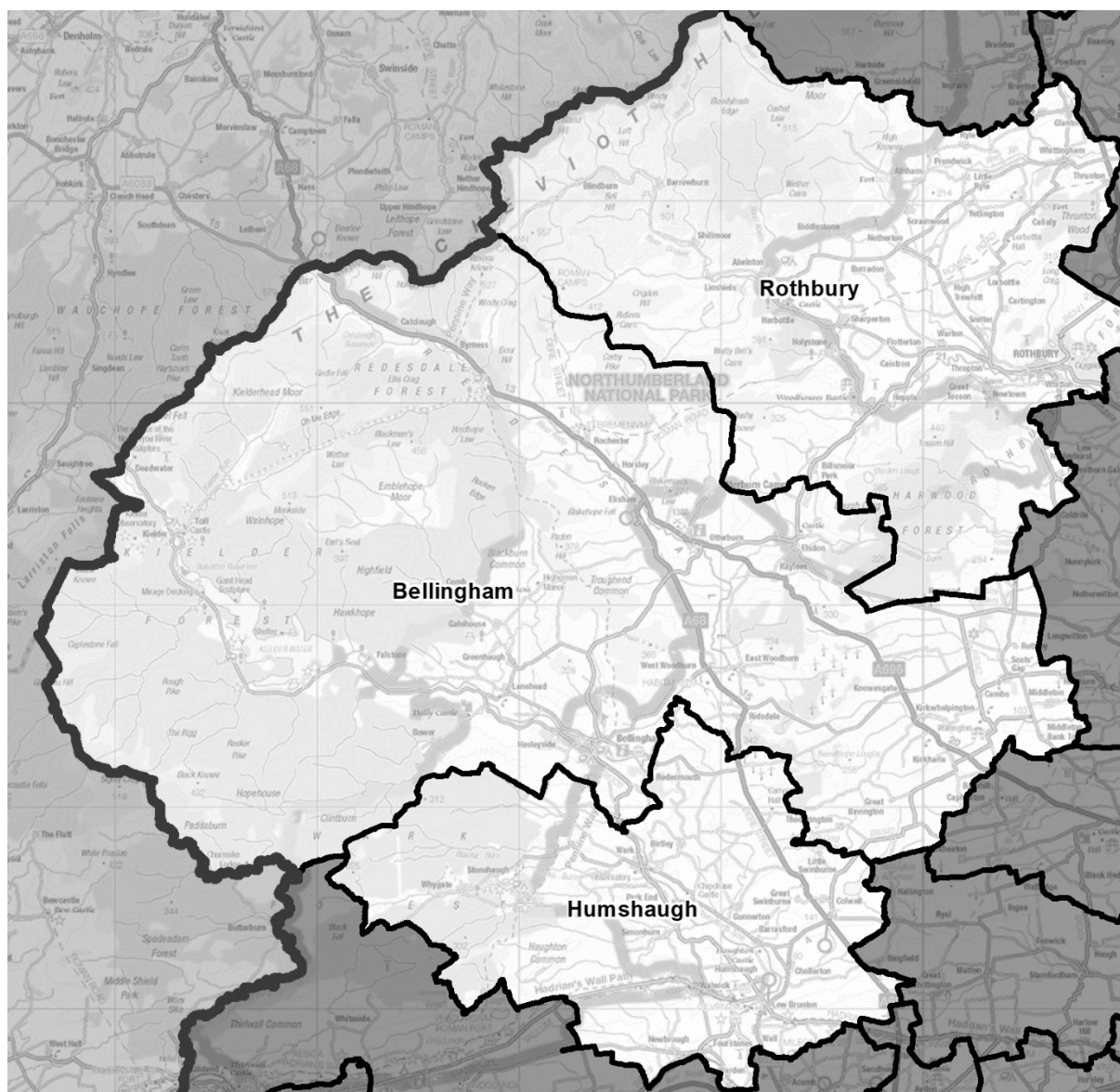
63 We considered the Council's proposal for Shilbottle, but we do not consider that a variance of 19% is acceptable electoral equality for a division and so we sought to provide a division that provides electoral equality whilst also reflecting communities and providing convenient and effective local government.

64 We propose that the parishes of Felton and Brinkburn are moved from Shilbottle division to Longhorsley division. In proposing the inclusion of these two parishes, we noted that Brinkburn parish is part of a grouped parish council with Hesleyhurst (discussed fully in para 75) and that including these two parishes in the same division strengthened effective and convenient local government. We also noted that the majority of the population of the parish of Felton is located in the namesake village along the River Coquet on the opposite bank from the village of West Thirston. This village is part of Thirston parish which is currently part of Longhorsley division. By including the parish of Felton in Longhorsley we consider we reflect the community ties that exist between the villages of Felton and West Thirston.

65 We are eager to hear evidence of the community ties within this division to help us ensure the division pattern we recommend best reflects the communities within them.

66 Our proposed draft recommendation is for a single-councillor Shilbottle division with a variance of -6% by 2028.

Rural West Northumberland



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bellingham	1	-2%
Humshaugh	1	-10%
Rothbury	1	8%

Bellingham, Humshaugh and Rothbury

68 The Council's submission for this area proposed three divisions unchanged from the existing divisions. The Council noted that two of these three divisions, Bellingham and Rothbury, would not have good electoral equality by 2028 with Bellingham having 18% fewer electors and Rothbury 18% more electors than the average for the county.

69 The Council argued that it would be impracticable to redraw the boundaries of Bellingham given the number of electors that would need to be added to the existing division to provide for electoral equality. They added that such a division would be ‘unworkable from a standpoint of electoral equality... and practically for the unreasonable travelling distances and time commitments required of elected representatives’.

70 The Council, in their rationale for proposing an unchanged Rothbury division with an electoral variance of 18%, stated that they had consulted with elected members about a proposal that would have seen Glanton and Whittingham parishes moved to the neighbouring Wooler division to provide for electoral equality in Rothbury division. They proposed to leave Humshaugh division unchanged as a consequence of their proposals for the other two divisions and because they consider the current division meets the Commission’s criteria in terms of its community identity.

71 In the submission the Council made to the Commission, Glanton and Whittingham parishes were included in Rothbury on the basis of the feedback the Council received on their limited connection to Wooler and the fact that Whittingham was part of a group of parishes with Callaly and Alnham, which were proposed to remain in Rothbury division.

72 In addition, we also received submissions from Glanton Parish Council and Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council, reiterating their strong connections to the Rothbury area developed over a number of years.

73 Having considered the submissions and visited the area on our detailed virtual tour, we don’t consider that we have sufficient evidence to justify proposing two divisions with electoral variances of -18% in Bellingham division and 18% in Rothbury division. As a result, we sought to find an alternative division pattern that we consider best met our three criteria of electoral equality, community identity and convenient and effective local government.

74 We propose to include the parishes of Elsdon – currently in Rothbury division – and Rothley and Wallington Demesne parishes – currently in Longhorsley division – in Bellingham division. We consider that it is appropriate to include these parishes in our proposed Bellingham division given their links to other parishes in Bellingham, including Otterburn, along the A696 road. This gives a proposed Bellingham division with electoral equality of 2% by 2028. We are particularly interested to hear from electors living in these parishes and the surrounding area with evidence of their community ties.

75 Our proposed Rothbury division amends the division proposed by the Council to include Elsdon parish in Bellingham division, as mentioned above. We also

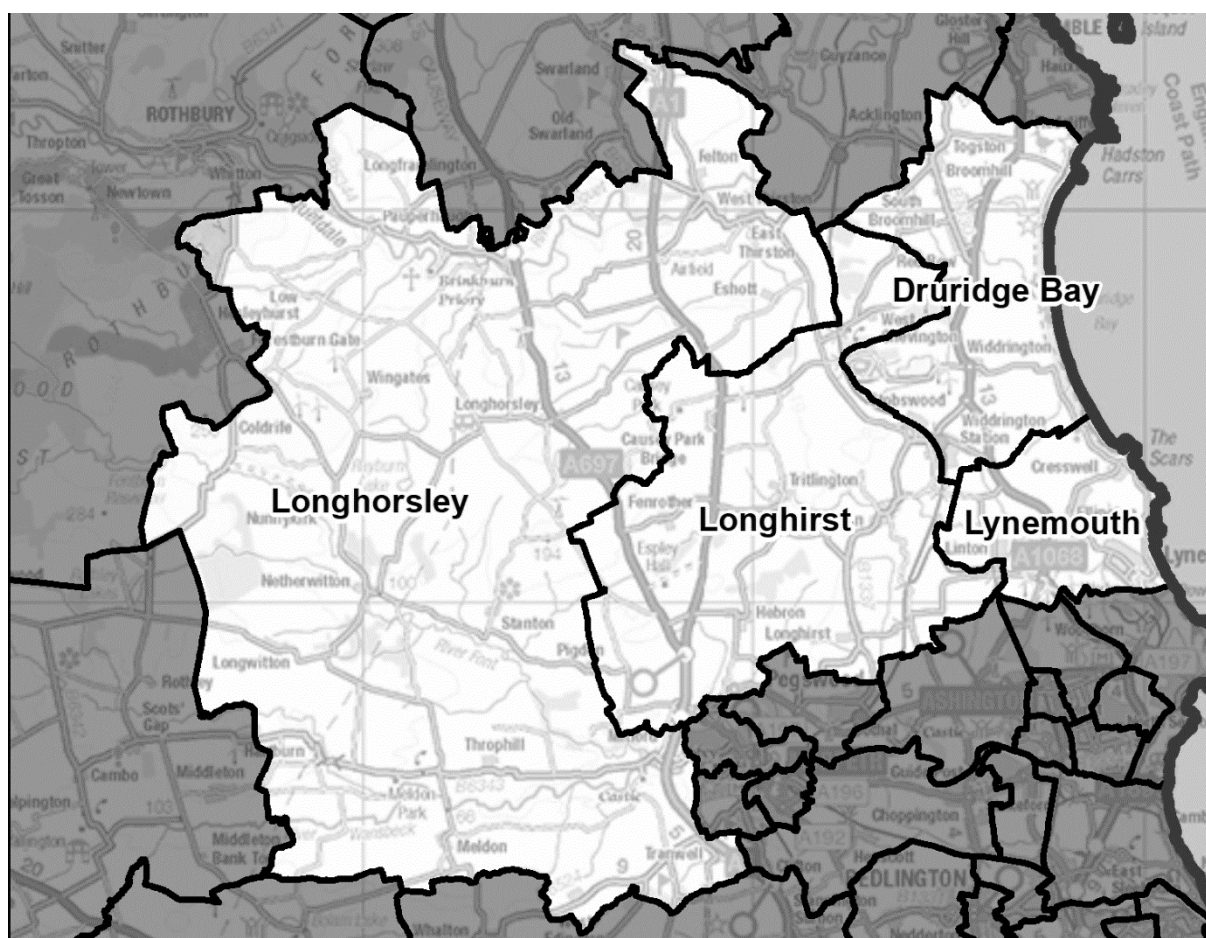
include Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst parishes in our proposed Longhorsley division. These two parishes operate a joint parish council of seven councillors, with five from Brinkburn and two from Hesleyhurst. Under the current division arrangements these parishes are divided between Rothbury division (Hesleyhurst) and Shilbottle division (Brinkburn). Uniting these parishes in Longhorsley division provides for more convenient and effective local government for the parishes and allows us to propose a Rothbury division with an electoral variance of 8% as opposed to the 18% proposed by the Council.

76 We consider that our proposed divisions of Bellingham and Rothbury provide the best balance of our three statutory criteria. However, we are very eager to heard further views and evidence from electors in the affected parishes as to where they consider their community ties to be, and we welcome alternative proposals that meet these criteria.

77 In addition to our proposals for Bellingham and Rothbury divisions we propose that Humshaugh division remains unchanged from the existing division, as suggested by the Council.

78 Our draft recommendations for this area are for three single-councillor divisions of Bellingham, Humshaugh and Rothbury with electoral variances of -2%, -10% and 8% by 2028, respectively.

South Central Northumberland



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Druridge Bay	1	-1%
Longhirst	1	0%
Longhorsley	1	-1%
Lynemouth	1	4%

Druridge Bay, Longhirst and Lynemouth

79 The Council's submission for these three divisions proposed a Druridge Bay division, to which they added the parish of Togston and the part of the parish of East Chevington not already in the division. They also proposed to amend the boundary between Druridge Bay and their proposed Longhirst division within the parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood. Their proposed Lynemouth division would see the parish of Cresswell added to the existing division.

80 Looking in detail at the Council's revised boundary between Druridge Bay division and Longhirst division, the village of Widdrington Station is currently wholly included in Druridge Bay division. New housing development in this area would mean that by 2028 the Druridge Bay division would have 14% more electors than the

average for the county. The Council proposed to resolve this by revising the boundary to run along the East Coast Main Line railway line, with the western half of the village included in Longhirst division and the eastern half in Druridge Bay division. The Council's proposed Longhirst division consists of the existing Pegswood division except for the parish of that name.

81 We received one other submission for these divisions from a local resident in favour of Cresswell and Lynemouth being in the same division.

82 Having considered the submissions and studied the area, we propose to adopt the Council's three proposed divisions. We consider that both the reunification for East Chevington parish in a single division and the inclusion of Cresswell parish in a Lynemouth division are reflective of the communities in those areas.

83 We looked at the proposed splitting of the parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood and we noted that is not possible to propose a pattern of divisions that provides for electoral equality for this area and does not divide the parish. We consider that the Council's suggested arrangement is the most appropriate division of the parish as it uses a strong and identifiable boundary in the East Coast Main Line railway line.

84 We have therefore adopted the Council's proposal as part of our draft recommendations which will see three single-councillor divisions of Druridge Bay, Longhirst and Lynemouth. These divisions will have electoral variances of -1%, 0% and 4% by 2028.

Longhorsley

85 The Council's proposed Longhorsley division was the same as the existing division with the exception of the parish of Brinkburn, which was included in Rothbury division. The Council's proposed Longhorsley division would have 14% more electors than the average by 2028. We received one other submission that commented on Longhorsley which stated that the current division was too big.

86 Having considered the submissions, our proposed Longhorsley division is similar to that proposed by the Council but takes account of the proposals we have made for Shilbottle and Rothbury divisions. Our proposed division also deals with an issue in the Morpeth area where a new housing development in the town has crossed into a neighbouring parish.

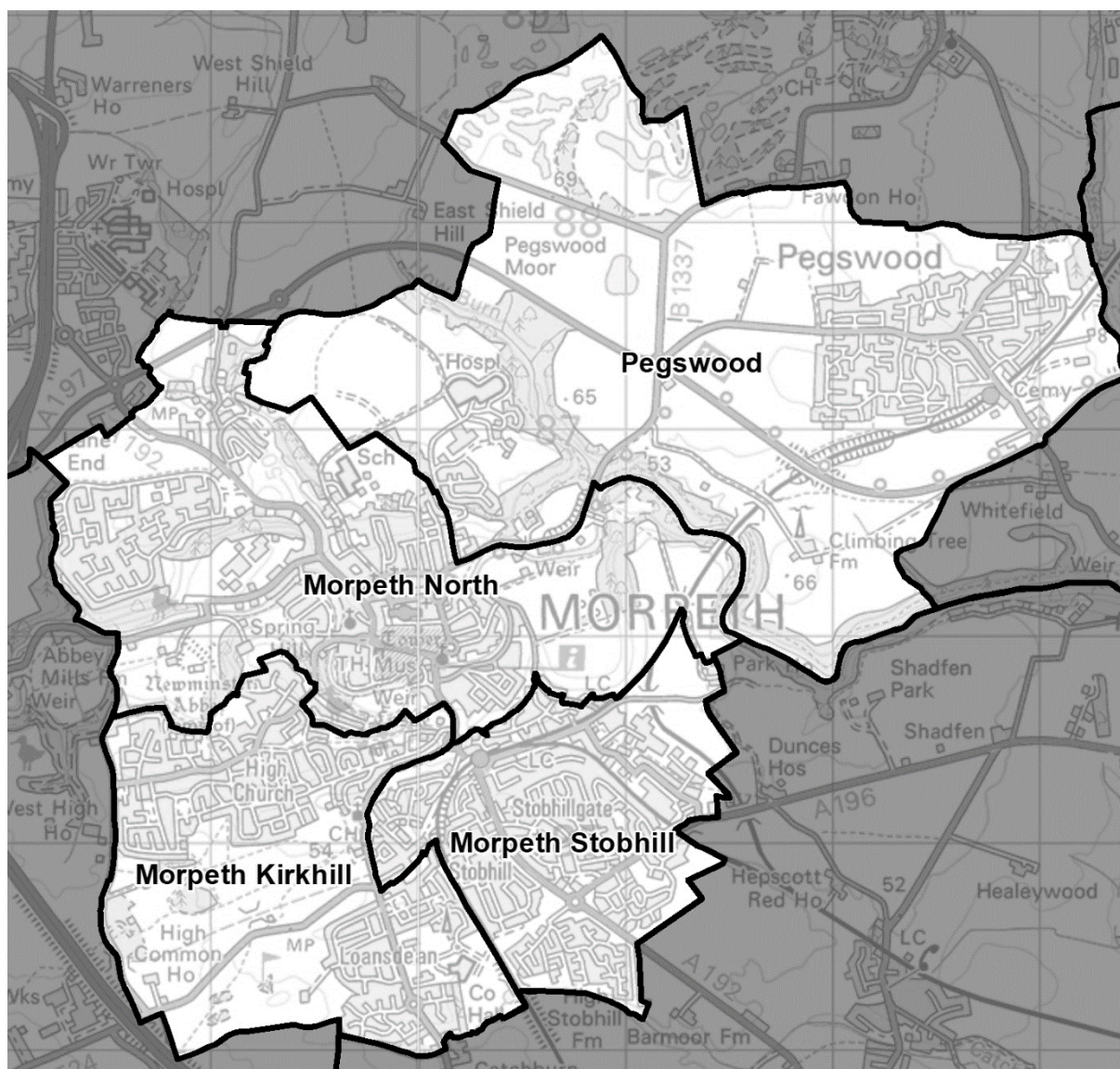
87 The current parish boundary between Morpeth and Hepscott parishes passes to the east of Crookham Grove and means that the properties on Norham Drive and Eglington Way, and the streets leading off them, are in Hepscott parish but Morpeth Stobhill division. Since our last review, a new housing development of South Fields

has commenced to the south of the A196 road. This development all falls within Hepscoth parish but appears to be part of the Morpeth Stobhill community.

88 We propose to include this area in Morpeth Stobhill division alongside the electors from Hepscoth parish that are already part of a Morpeth division. We propose the remainder of Hepscoth parish is included in Choppington division, as discussed in paragraphs 122–124.

89 As a result of these changes, as well as our inclusion of the parish of Brinkburn, Felton and Hesleyhurst, we are able to propose a single-councillor Longhorsley division with electoral equality of -1% by 2028 as part of our draft recommendations.

Morpeth



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Morpeth Kirkhill	1	8%
Morpeth North	1	9%
Morpeth Stobhill	1	10%
Pegswood	1	1%

Morpeth Kirkhill, Morpeth North and Morpeth Stobhill

90 The Council's three proposed divisions for Morpeth saw them propose two minor changes and one substantive change to the existing divisions. They suggested moving the streets of Kendor Grove and Horseshoe Way from Morpeth Kirkhill to Morpeth Stobhill. They also made a small amendment to the boundary of Morpeth North to follow the A197 rather than Cotting Burn. The more substantive change suggested by the Council was to include the new housing development at St

George's Hospital in Pegswood division rather than Morpeth North division. These proposals would have variances of 11% for Morpeth Kirkhill, 0% for Morpeth North and -2% for Morpeth Stobhill.

91 We received one other submission that mentioned Morpeth, but it referred to the parliamentary constituency boundaries in the area. Parliamentary constituency boundaries are the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England who are due to report in July 2023.

92 We considered the submissions we received, and we carried out a virtual tour of the town when considering our draft recommendations. We noted that to include the new housing development in St George's Park and the new housing development in South Fields in Morpeth divisions would mean Morpeth was entitled to more than three councillors and less than four councillors. This would make developing a division pattern that met our three statutory criteria exceedingly difficult. We also noted that by including the St George's Park development in a division with Pegswood it was possible to provide a division pattern for both Pegswood and its surrounding parishes, and for Morpeth, which would be represented by three councillors.

93 The Council's proposal for Morpeth still contained poor electoral equality. We sought to address this in conjunction with amending the boundary of Morpeth Stobhill to include the South Fields development in a Morpeth division.

94 We propose to include the St George's Park development in Pegswood division as suggested by the Council and detailed in the section below.

95 Our proposals for the town of Morpeth are for three single-councillor divisions of Morpeth Kirkhill, Morpeth North and Morpeth Stobhill. Our proposed Morpeth North division is based on the existing division to which we add a small number of electors off Mitford Road, the entirety of Castle Close, and a number of electors to the east of Morpeth Castle, north of Mafeking Park and south of the River Wansbeck. We transfer a few electors on Coningsby Gardens and Coople's Lane from Morpeth North to Morpeth Stobhill to provide for more effective and convenient local government. For the boundary between Morpeth Kirkhill and Morpeth Stobhill we use the boundary suggested by the Council that follows the B1337, the rear of Kendor Grove and the East Coast Main Line.

96 Our three divisions for Morpeth are the single-councillor divisions of Morpeth Kirkhill with a variance of 8%, Morpeth North at 9% and Morpeth Stobhill at 10%.

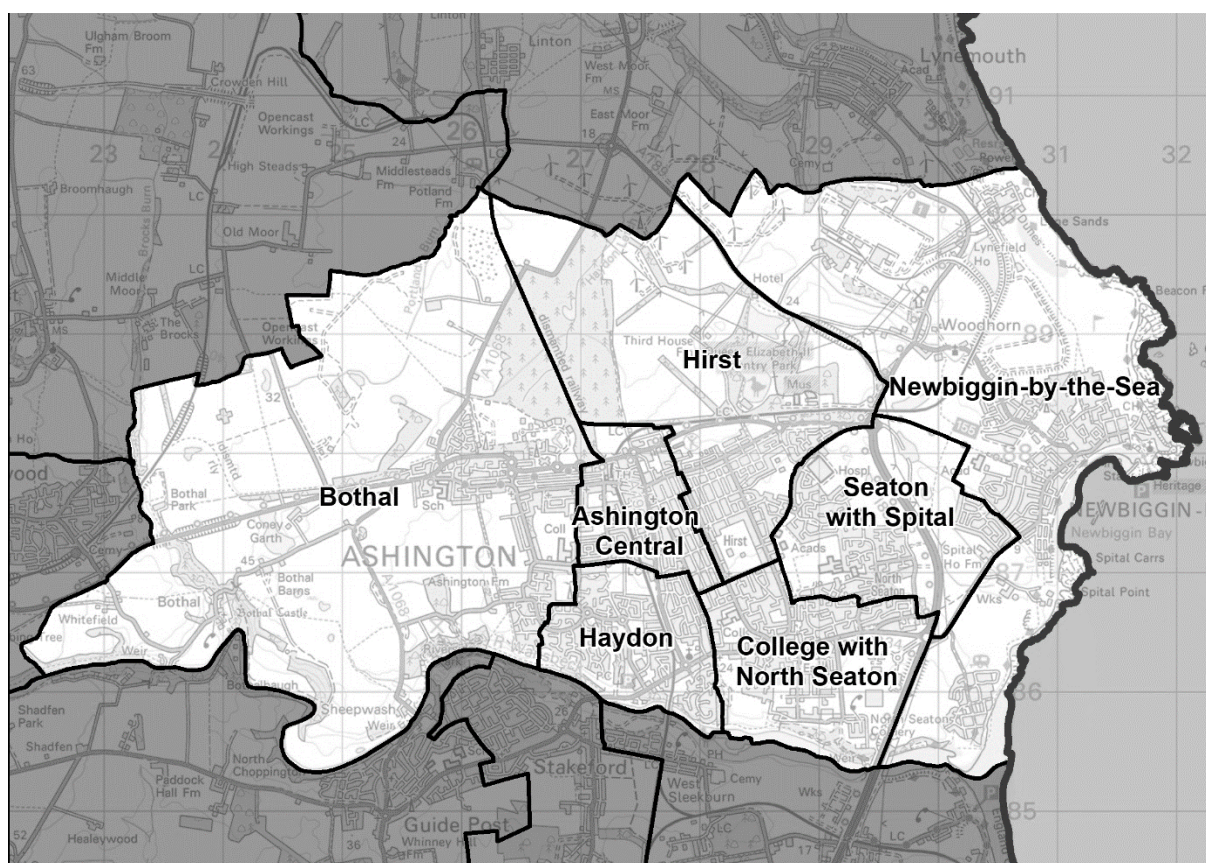
Pegswood

97 Our proposed Pegswood division is as suggested by the Council and contains the parish of Pegswood and the new housing development of St George's Park.

These two areas are connected by the B1337, and we consider that this division successfully balances our statutory criteria to provide for electoral equality, community identities and effective and convenient local government. We are, however, eager to hear further evidence from electors in this area to help develop our proposals.

98 Our proposed Pegswood division will be represented by a single councillor and will have an electoral variance of 1% by 2028.

Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Ashington Central	1	-7%
Bothal	1	-7%
College with North Seaton	1	-1%
Haydon	1	-3%
Hirst	1	-7%
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	1	3%
Seaton with Spital	1	9%

Ashington Central, Bothal, Haydon and Hirst

99 The Council's submission for these four divisions saw them make minor changes to the existing divisions to improve the poor electoral equality in Ashington Central and Hirst divisions.

100 The Council proposed to move the boundary between Ashington Central and College divisions from Fifth Avenue to Sixth Avenue to provide for electoral equality in Ashington Central. They also proposed to extend the boundary between Hirst and College divisions further along Sixth Avenue to include more of the electors facing onto Hirst Park in Hirst division. The Council also suggested a small change to the boundary between Bothal and Haydon to include electors to the north of Blackthorn

Way in Haydon division. This provides Haydon division with good electoral equality by 2028.

101 We received no other submissions that related to the towns of Ashington or Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

102 We propose to adopt the Council's suggested divisions in this area. We consider that they accurately reflect the communities in the town, whilst the small changes proposed help to provide for electoral equality for the town's electors.

103 Our proposed draft recommendations will see four single-councillor divisions of Ashington Central, Bothal, Haydon and Hirst with electoral variances of -7%, -7%, -3% and -7% by 2028, respectively.

College with North Seaton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Seaton with Spital

104 The Council's proposals for these three divisions sought to address the fact that the division of Seaton with Newbiggin West was forecast to have 31% more electors than average by 2028.

105 The Council proposed move the boundary of the existing division eastwards from Boiler Road to the A189 and to include the electors to the south of Paddock Wood and north of the B1334 (as well as the street of Links View) in a renamed College with North Seaton division.

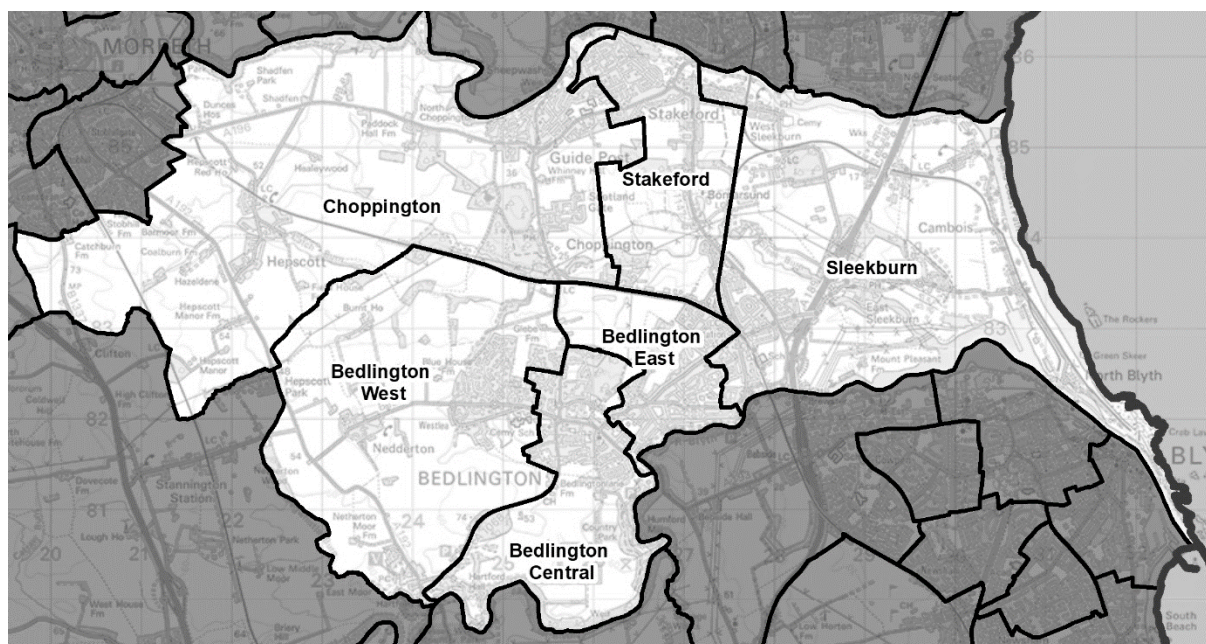
106 The parish of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea is slightly too large to be encompassed by a single-councillor division, which would have 18% more electors than the average for the county by 2028. It is therefore necessary to include some part of the parish in a division with parts of Ashington. At the moment the area included is Westmoreland Avenue, Welfare Crescent and the streets off Spital Road. The Council proposed to include Westmoreland Avenue and Welfare Crescent in their Newbiggin-by-the-Sea division, leaving the streets of Spital Road in a Seaton with Spital division. This proposal will allow the new housing developments to be wholly contained in Seaton with Spital division.

107 As mentioned above, we received no further submissions relating to this area. Having considered the Council's proposed division pattern for this area we have adopted it as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the proposed boundaries meet our statutory criteria of providing electoral equality alongside meeting the community ties of the area.

108 We are particularly interested to hear further evidence for this area given the limited evidence we received during the first consultation. Any further evidence will help us in our consideration of the boundaries for Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

109 Our draft recommendations for this area are for three single-councillor divisions of College with North Seaton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Seaton with Spital. These divisions will have electoral variances of -1%, 3% and 9% by 2028, respectively.

Bedlington and surrounding area



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bedlington Central	1	0%
Bedlington East	1	-3%
Bedlington West	1	-2%
Choppington	1	5%
Sleekburn	1	-5%
Stakeford	1	-8%

Bedlington Central, Bedlington East and Bedlington West

110 The town of Bedlington is currently represented by three divisions: Central, East and West. Bedlington East is forecast to have 20% fewer electors than the county average by 2028. The Council proposed to make a small amendment to all three divisions to improve electoral equality in Bedlington East.

111 Bedlington East division is currently comprised of part of East Bedlington parish and a small part of West Bedlington parish which forms the parish ward of Park Road. This parish ward currently includes the streets of Whitsun Gardens and Rosalind Avenue that lie off Park Road, as well as Spring Park and surrounding streets that lie off the A193 Bedlington Bank. The Council proposed to extend the part of West Bedlington parish that is in Bedlington East division by adding the streets on either side of the B1331 Beech Grove between its junction with Schalksmuhle Road and the junction with Rothesay Terrace and Stead Lane. This provides for electoral equality for Bedlington East division. The Council also proposed to amend the boundary between Bedlington West and Bedlington Central by adding a number of streets to the west of the A1068 Choppington Road into

Bedlington Central. This helps to provide electoral equality for these two divisions in addition to Bedlington East.

112 We received no further submissions that referred to the divisions in Bedlington.

113 Having considered the divisions proposed by the Council, we have adopted the Council's proposed divisions in Bedlington as part of our draft recommendations. We consider the Council's proposal provides the best balance of the Commission's statutory criteria.

114 We are eager to hear further evidence for the division pattern in Bedlington given the limited evidence we have so far received.

115 Our draft recommendations for Bedlington are for three single-councillor divisions of Bedlington Central, Bedlington East and Bedlington West. These divisions will have electoral variances of 0%, -3% and -2% by 2028.

Choppington, Sleekburn and Stakeford

116 The current division pattern for these three divisions covers all of Choppington parish and the remainder of East Bedlington parish that is not in a Bedlington division. The Council proposed that the three existing divisions be retained with some small amendments to better reflect community ties and effective and convenient local government.

117 The Council proposed to amend the boundary between Sleekburn and Stakeford to follow the parish boundary between Choppington and East Bedlington. The current division diverts from the parish boundary to pass around a number of properties on The Willows and Willowbrook Close. These electors currently form a small parish ward on Choppington Parish Council whilst being in Sleekburn division. According to the submission, the inclusion of these electors in Stakeford division better reflects their community ties with the properties to their immediate north and also provides for effective and convenient local government by removing a small parish ward with just over 120 electors. This arrangement was also proposed by Choppington Parish Council in their submission.

118 However, to provide for electoral equality in Sleekburn division it is necessary to include some of Choppington parish in that division. Currently, the area included is the settlement of West Sleekburn that lies to the east of the railway line that transverses the parish. The Council proposed to include the electors to the north of Wansbeck Terrace and south of the River Wansbeck on River Bank, River Bank East and Carlow Drive and the streets off it in Sleekburn division. The Council also proposed two small amendments to the boundary between Stakeford and Choppington divisions. Firstly, they suggested including all of Nelson Road, Wellington Road and Cambridge Road, just to the south of Stakeford Lane, in

Stakeford division. These streets are currently divided between Stakeford and Choppington divisions. They also proposed to move the Stakeford and Choppington boundary from Ringway to Ashington Drive to ensure Ringway is not divided between divisions.

119 Choppington Parish Council's submission, in addition to the amendment discussed above, proposed that Choppington division remain unchanged.

120 We received no other submissions regarding this area. We considered both the Council's submission and that of Choppington Parish Council. We agree with both that the amendment to return The Willows to Stakeford is sensible and reflects the community identity of those electors and provides for more effective and convenient local government. We also agree with the small amendments made to the boundary between Choppington and Stakeford suggested by the Council, which appear to better reflect the community identity of the electors on those streets.

121 We have also adopted the Council's suggested amendment to include electors on River Bank, River Bank East and Carlow Drive and the streets off it in Sleekburn division to provide for electoral equality in that division, but we are particularly interested to hear further evidence of community identities in this area.

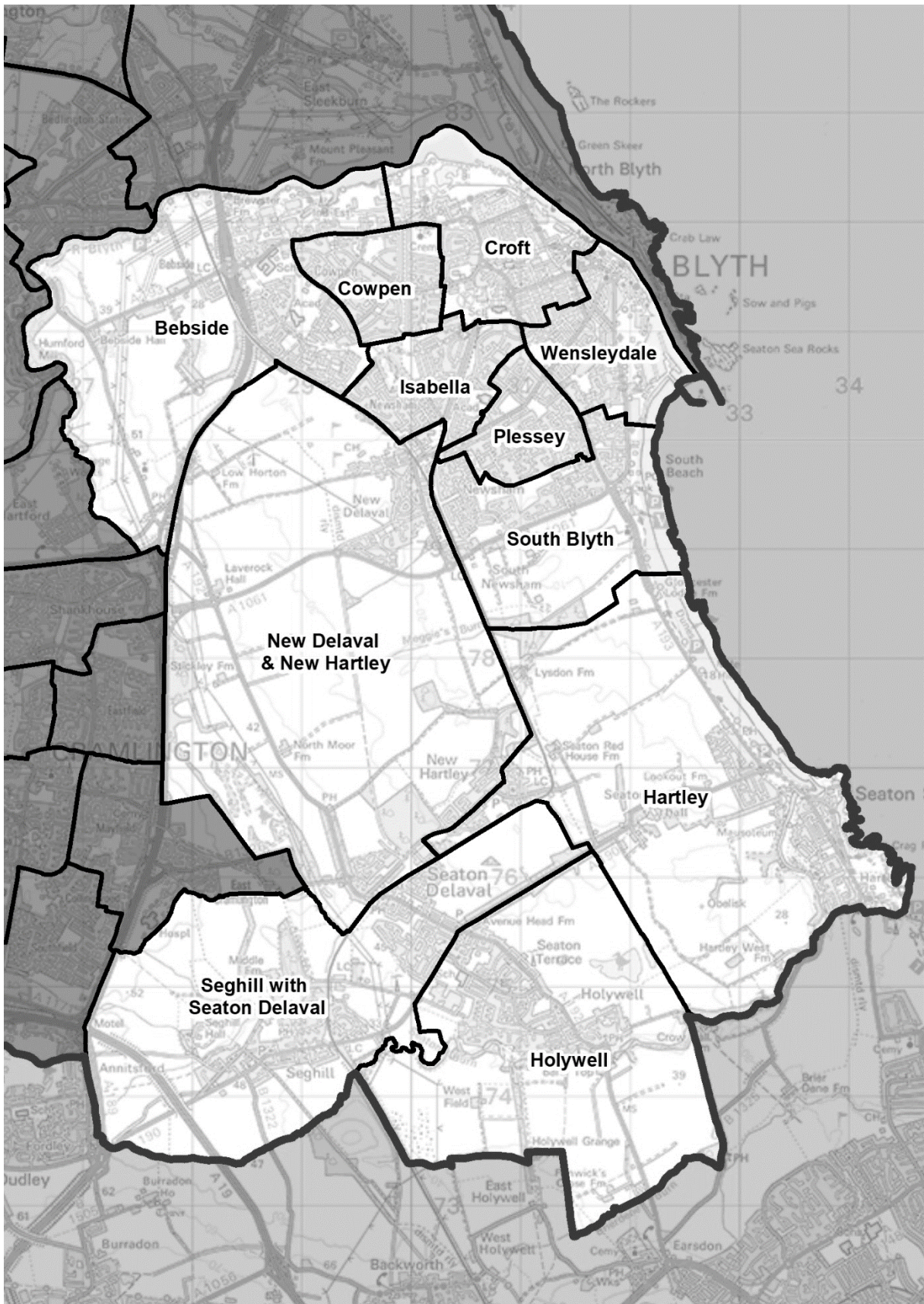
122 In addition to accepting the Council's proposals for these divisions, we also propose to add the remainder of Hepscoth parish to Choppington division. As mentioned in the Morpeth section, we propose to include the area of Hepscoth parish containing the South Fields housing development in a Morpeth division.

123 As a result of this and our proposals for Shilbottle division, we cannot include the remainder of Hepscoth parish, which consists of the village of Hepscoth, in Longhorsley division as at present and provide for electoral equality for that division. Given the location of Hepscoth parish as the only parish currently in Longhorsley division that is south and east of Morpeth, we propose to include the remainder of the parish in Choppington division. We note that Hepscoth parish lies on the A196 Ashington to Morpeth road (via Choppington and Stakeford) and has transport links to both areas and so may have community ties to these areas.

124 We strongly welcome evidence from this area on exactly where Hepscoth's community ties lie, as well as evidence supporting our two other criteria of effective and convenient local government and electoral equality.

125 Our three proposed divisions for this area are three single-councillor divisions of Choppington, Sleekburn and Stakeford with electoral variances of 5%, -5% and -8% by 2028, respectively.

Blyth and Seaton Valley parishes



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bebside	1	-5%
Cowpen	1	1%
Croft	1	7%
Hartley	1	-5%
Holywell	1	4%
Isabella	1	10%
New Delaval & New Hartley	1	7%
Plessey	1	3%
Seghill with Seaton Delaval	1	8%
South Blyth	1	0%
Wensleydale	1	-6%

Whole area

126 Blyth parish is currently represented by eight single-councillor divisions and Seaton Valley parish is represented by three single-councillor divisions. Due to past and future housing development, Croft division is forecast to have 20% fewer electors than the average for the county by 2028. Isabella is forecast to have 21% fewer electors, Kitty Brewster 32% more electors, Plessey 17% fewer electors and Seghill with Seaton Delaval 18% more electors than the average for the county by 2028.

127 These levels of electoral inequality mean that this area of Northumberland will need to see significant redrawing of its boundaries. When comparing the forecast electorates for Blyth parish and Seaton Valley parish, we calculated that of the 11 councillors who cover this area, Blyth parish is entitled to 7.5 councillors and Seaton Valley 3.5 councillors. This means it will be necessary to propose one division that contains part of Blyth parish and part of Seaton Valley parish.

128 The Council's proposed divisions were for eight single-councillor divisions for the parish of Blyth and three single-councillor divisions for the parish of Seaton Valley. As a consequence, one of the Council's proposed divisions in Blyth (Newsham) has 12% more electors than average. In addition, all three of the Council's proposed divisions in Seaton Valley parish – Hartley, Holywell and Seghill with Seaton Delaval – have 13% more electors than the average for the county by 2028.

129 One other submission made specific reference to Blyth, but this submission stated that Blyth should have a single division. Such a division would require between 7–8 councillors.

130 Having considered the submission and looked at both areas in great detail, we are not convinced that the poor electoral equality for divisions in the Seaton Valley parish, plus Newsham division, is justified in the context of the other two criteria of community ties and effective and convenient local government.

131 Our draft recommendations make substantial changes to both the existing divisions and the Council's suggested divisions to provide for electoral equality in Seaton Valley and Blyth. We discuss individual divisions in greater detail in the section below.

Bebside, Cowpen, Croft and Wensleydale

132 The current Kitty Brewster division is forecast to have 32% more electors than average by 2028, whereas Cowpen and Croft divisions are forecast to have 17% and 20% fewer, respectively. This level of electoral imbalance means that the divisions in Blyth will need substantial changes to provide for electoral equality.

133 The Council proposed that the area of Cowpen currently in Kitty Brewster division is moved to Cowpen division and that the division of Kitty Brewster be renamed Bebside. The Council's proposed Cowpen division would be bounded in the north by the A193 and electors to the north of that road are proposed to be included in Croft division.

134 In addition, the Council proposed that Priory Grange move from Cowpen to Croft and the electors to the south of Albion Way currently in Cowpen be included in Isabella division. Finally, they proposed that the boundary between Croft and Wensleydale divisions is revised from Princess Louise Road, Union Street and Plessey Road to instead run along Winchester Avenue, Collingwood Terrace, Rowley Street and Coburg Street.

135 As mentioned above, we propose a change to these divisions to facilitate a division pattern in Seaton Valley with better electoral equality.

136 We propose to adopt the Council's suggested Bebside, Cowpen and Wensleydale divisions which we consider well reflect all three of our statutory criteria. However, we propose a change to the boundary between Croft and Isabella division to include electors in the triangle of roads to the north of St Andrew's Primary School who are currently in Isabella division in our proposed Croft division. This allows us to retain more of the existing Isabella division which in turn enables us to provide better electoral equality in the Seaton Valley divisions.

137 Our draft recommendations for this part of Blyth are for four single-councillor divisions of Bebside, Cowpen, Croft and Wensleydale. These four divisions have electoral variances of -5%, 1%, 7% and -6% by 2028, respectively.

Isabella, Plessey and South Blyth

138 The Council's proposed Isabella division also sees its boundary with Plessey amended to run along Twelfth Avenue and Plessey Road. Their proposed Plessey division includes the streets to the south of Amersham Road currently in South Blyth division. The existing boundary between South Blyth and Wensleydale divisions is moved northwards to include electors on Wellesley Drive and streets off it in South Blyth division. The Council proposed to leave the existing Newsham division unchanged.

139 We propose to add the area around Druridge Drive that is currently in Newsham division in Isabella division. This proposal allows us to link the rest of the existing Newsham division with part of Seaton Valley parish in a new division of New Delaval & New Hartley discussed fully below.

140 We adopt the Council's suggestion to add the streets to the south of Amersham Road to Plessey division which we consider unites a community currently divided between Plessey and South Blyth divisions. We propose to adopt the Council's suggested South Blyth division, including the revised boundary with Wensleydale, which we also consider reflects our three statutory criteria.

141 Our draft recommendations for this area are for three single-councillor divisions of Isabella, Plessey and South Blyth with electoral variances of 10%, 3% and 0% by 2028.

Hartley, Holywell, New Delaval & New Hartley and Seghill with Seaton Delaval

142 The Council proposed to leave the existing three divisions of Hartley, Holywell and Seghill with Seaton Delaval unchanged, with the exception of a small change to the boundary between Holywell and Seghill and Seaton Delaval to move a few electors in the centre of Seaton Delaval to Holywell division. As mentioned above, this division pattern means all three divisions will have 13% more electors than average by 2028. The explanation given for this poor electoral equality by the Council in their submission is that it is a consequence of the increase in council size to 69 councillors and, although not stated explicitly, should be accepted.

143 Having considered the submissions, we were not convinced that three single-councillor divisions all with 13% more electors than average provided the best balance of our statutory criteria, so we sought to identify an alternative division pattern.

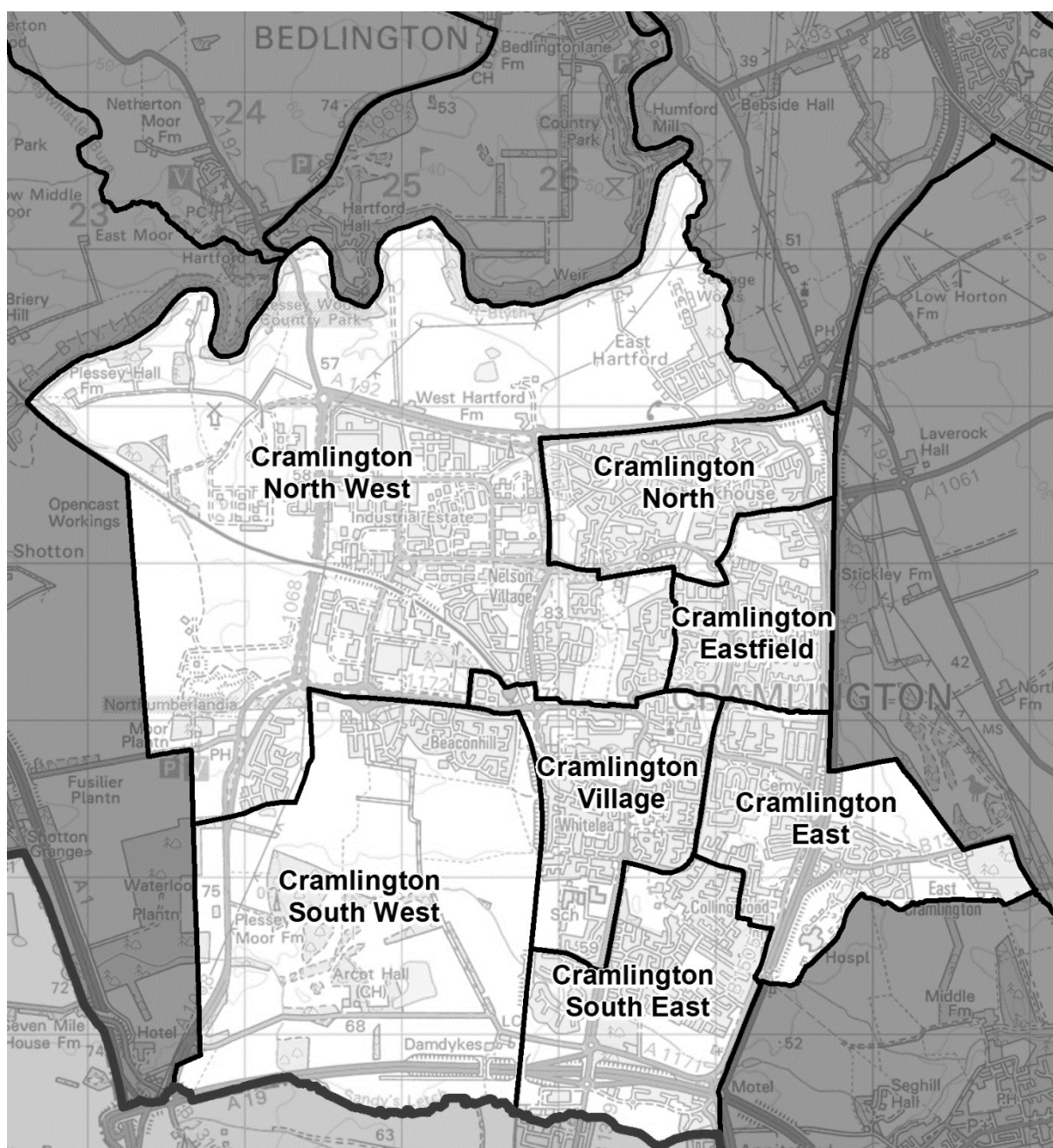
144 We propose to retain the existing Holywell division, which is forecast to have an electoral variance of 4% by 2028. Whilst the Council only proposed a small change to this division, that change produced a variance of 13%.

145 We propose to amend the existing Seghill with Seaton Delaval to move all electors lying to the north and west of the railway line in our New Delaval and New Hartley division. This division will also include the rest of the existing Newsham division which consists of the settlement of New Delaval, as well as the area of New Hartley to the north of a boundary along Bristol Street, Lysdon Avenue and Hastings Terrace. The remainder of New Hartley will remain in Hartley division.

146 We consider that this division pattern is the best balance of our statutory criteria but are extremely interested to hear further evidence from all interested parties in this part of the county to help inform our future recommendations.

147 Our draft recommendations for this area are for four single-councillor divisions of Hartley, Holywell, New Delaval & New Hartley and Seghill with Seaton Delaval. These divisions will have electoral variances of -5%, 4%, 7% and 8% by 2028, respectively.

Cramlington



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Cramlington East	1	-2%
Cramlington Eastfield	1	2%
Cramlington North	1	7%
Cramlington North West	1	-9%
Cramlington South East	1	-8%
Cramlington South West	1	-9%
Cramlington Village	1	-8%

Cramlington

148 Cramlington is currently represented by six single-councillor divisions but is forecast to have a great deal of housing development which would mean that the existing Cramlington West division would have 85% more electors than the average for the county by 2028. The Council's submission proposed that Cramlington be represented by seven councillors. Cramlington Town Council also made a submission regarding the divisions in Cramlington, suggesting both a six-councillor division pattern and a seven-councillor division pattern. We considered both submissions and we propose to adopt the seven-councillor division pattern proposed by the Council. This pattern differed slightly from the seven-councillor division pattern proposed by Cramlington Town Council in the boundary between the proposed Cramlington South West and Cramlington North West divisions. We considered that seven councillors provides for a better balance of divisions across the town, made possible by the increase to 69 councillors for the county. We noted that under a 69-councillor division pattern, Cramlington Town Council's proposed Cramlington North West division would not have good electoral equality.

Cramlington Eastfield and Cramlington North

149 The Council and Cramlington Town Council both proposed that Cramlington Eastfield and Cramlington North remain unchanged from the existing divisions, as they already reflect existing communities.

150 We propose to retain these two divisions as per the existing divisions as part of our draft recommendations.

Cramlington East, Cramlington South East and Cramlington Village

151 The existing Cramlington East division is forecast to have 18% fewer electors than the average for the county by 2028. To provide for electoral equality, the Council proposed to revise the boundary between Cramlington East and Cramlington South East. The revised boundary will follow Cateran Way and Woodhill Road and all electors to the north and east of those roads would be included in Cramlington East division.

152 In addition to this, the Council proposed to move electors on Ripley Drive and Richmond Way and the streets off them from Cramlington Village to Cramlington South East. The Council also proposed to move Strother Way from Cramlington West to Cramlington Village.

153 These proposed changes allow the Council to propose divisions with improved electoral equality across Cramlington.

154 Cramlington Town Council also proposed to move the same area from Cramlington South East to Cramlington East, as suggested by the Council. They did not propose to make any changes to Cramlington Village division. Under a 69-

councillor division pattern this would leave Cramlington Village with 11% fewer electors than average by 2028.

155 Having considered the submissions from this part of Cramlington, we propose to adopt the Council's proposed divisions for this area. We consider the suggested arrangement reflects the communities in the area and provides for slightly better electoral equality than the divisions suggested by Cramlington Town Council. We are interested to hear views of electors in this area regarding their community ties, particularly those who are to be moved to a different division.

Cramlington North West and Cramlington South West

156 The large-scale housing development in the west of Cramlington means that the existing Cramlington West division will have 85% more electors than the average for the divisions by 2028. Both the Council and Cramlington Town Council proposed to create two new divisions in the west of the town which, along with other changes and an increase to 69 councillors for the county, will provide two single-councillor divisions with good electoral equality by 2028.

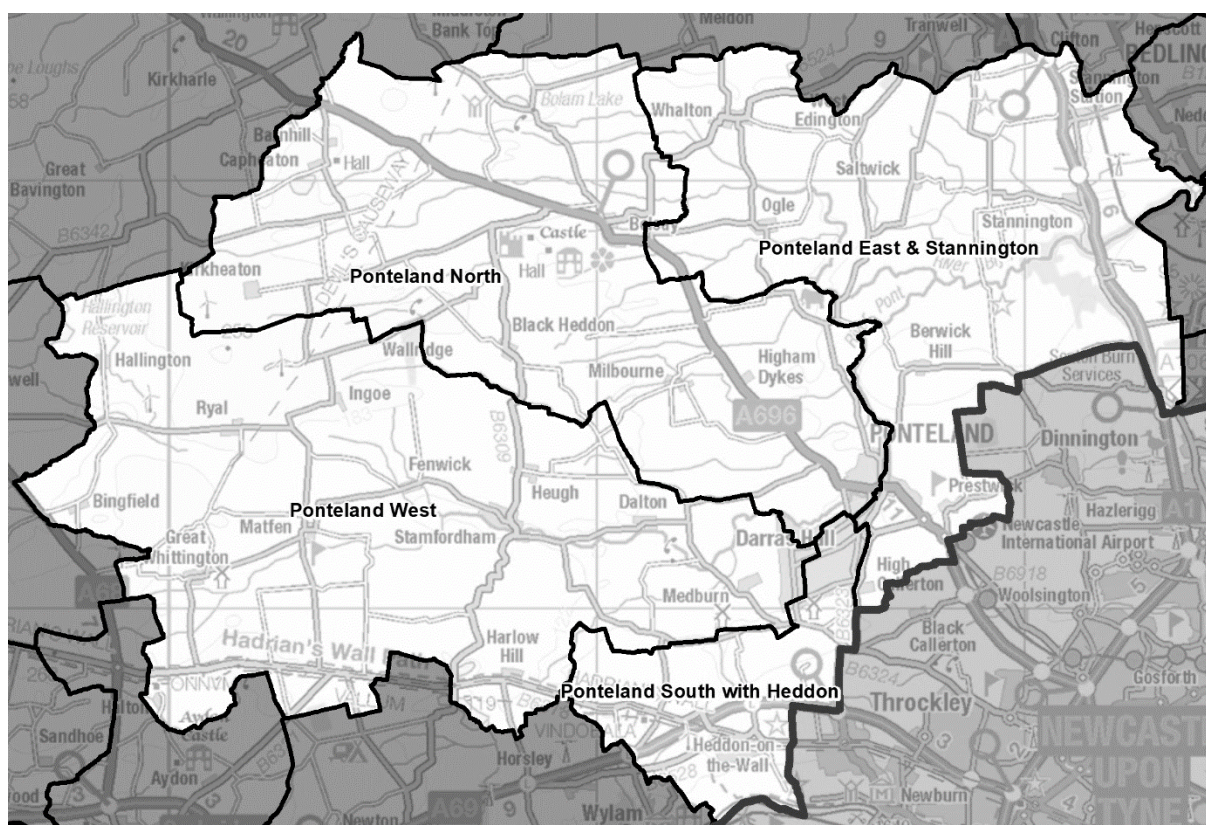
157 The Council proposed a Cramlington North West and a Cramlington South West division with a boundary that runs along the A1172 and then to the south of the ongoing development to the east of the A1068 Fisher Lane. Cramlington Town Council proposed the boundary between their Cramlington North West and West divisions be the East Coast Main Line railway line, as it transverses the parish of Cramlington.

158 Having considered these two proposals, we agree that the best solution to the large forecast increase in electors is to propose two divisions. We have adopted the divisions suggested by the Council. Whilst the use of the railway line is a strong boundary, using this boundary would leave the town council's proposed Cramlington North West division with 12% fewer electors than the average by 2028.

159 We consider that the Council's proposal provides for electoral equality in both divisions and reflects the community identity of existing electors. We are interested in hearing views from the community in this area, in particular any thoughts on the future community ties of electors in parts of the housing development yet to be built.

160 Our proposed draft recommendations for Cramlington are for seven single-councillor divisions of Cramlington East, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington North, Cramlington North West, Cramlington South East, Cramlington South West and Cramlington Village with electoral variances of -2%, 2%, 7%, -9%, -8%, -9% and -8%, respectively, by 2028.

Ponteland and surrounding area



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Ponteland East & Stannington	1	4%
Ponteland North	1	3%
Ponteland South with Heddon	1	8%
Ponteland West	1	-3%

Ponteland East & Stannington, Ponteland North, Ponteland South with Heddon and Ponteland West

161 The existing divisions for Ponteland and the surrounding parishes currently provide for fairly good electoral equality. By 2028, however, Ponteland East & Stannington is forecast to have 11% more and Ponteland South with Heddon 14% fewer electors than the average by 2028.

162 The Council proposed to amend the boundary between Ponteland East & Stannington and Ponteland South with Heddon by moving the existing boundary from Eastern Way to the B6323 Callerton Lane. This proposal will unite the Darras Hall community in a single division: Ponteland South with Heddon. The Council did not propose to make any changes to Ponteland North or Ponteland West divisions.

163 We received two further comments regarding Ponteland. One submission suggested that Ponteland West division be retained unchanged and the other suggested that Ponteland town should not be divided between divisions.

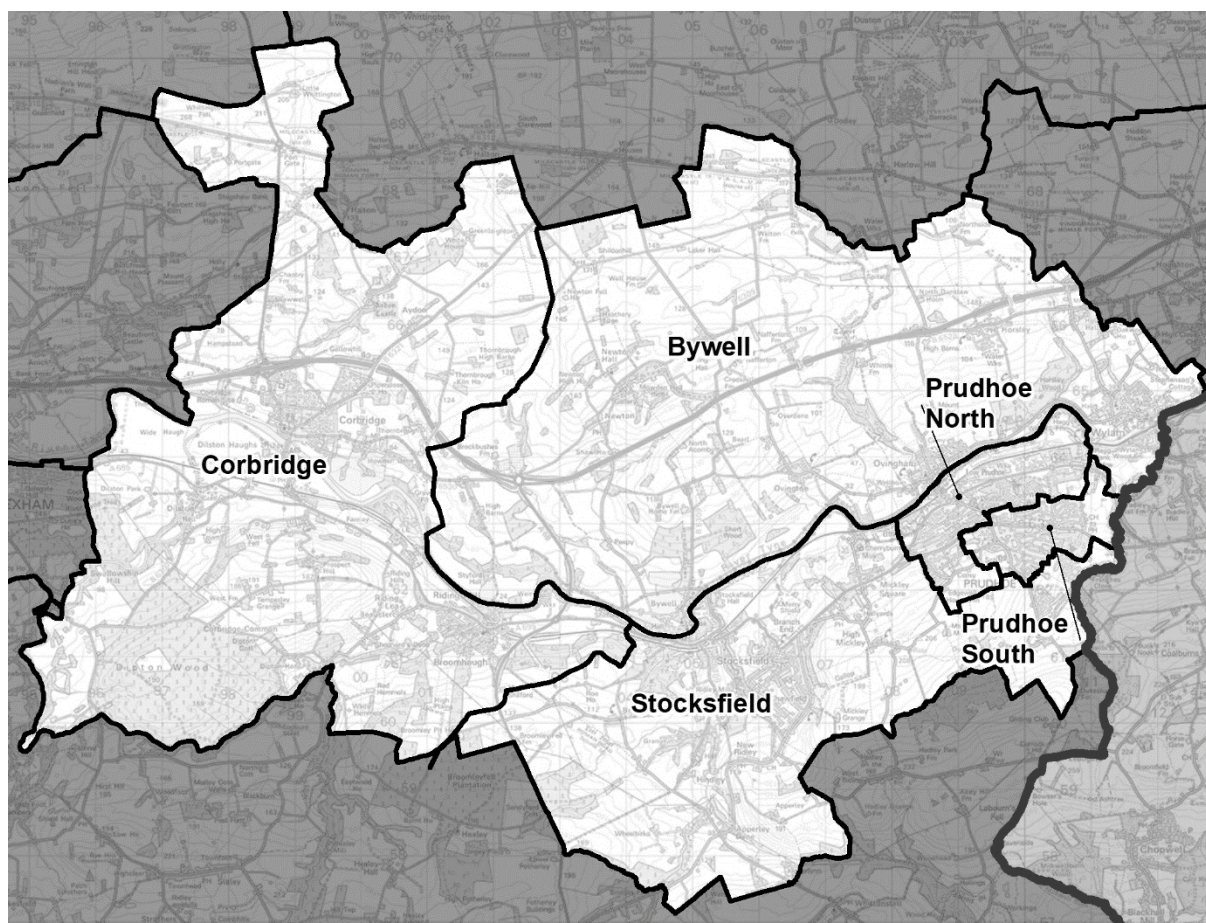
164 We considered the submissions we received and looked closely at the area. We note that the town of Ponteland alone is entitled to four councillors and is therefore required to be divided into divisions. We also noted that under the Council's proposed 69-councillor division pattern their Ponteland North division would have 12% more councillors than the average for the county by 2028.

165 We have adopted the Council's suggested revised boundary between Ponteland East & Stannington and Ponteland South with Heddon, as we consider that the revised boundary better reflects the Darras Hall community.

166 However, we also propose to revise the boundary between Ponteland North and Ponteland South with Heddon to provide for electoral equality for Ponteland North and to reflect the Darras Hall community. The existing boundary follows a footpath from Eastern Way to Broadway. We propose to move the boundary northwards to include a portion of Darras Road in Ponteland South with Heddon. This will provide for improved electoral equality for both divisions and we are eager to hear evidence of the community identity in this area to ensure our proposed boundary is appropriate.

167 Our proposed draft recommendation for Ponteland are for four single-councillor divisions of Ponteland East & Stannington, Ponteland North, Ponteland South with Heddon and Ponteland West with variances of 4%, 3%, 8% and -3%, respectively.

Prudhoe and surrounding area



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bywell	1	-4%
Corbridge	1	6%
Prudhoe North	1	6%
Prudhoe South	1	4%
Stocksfield	1	3%

Prudhoe North, Prudhoe South and Stocksfield

168 The existing division for Prudhoe South is forecast to have 16% more electors than average for the county. The increase is as a result of a large housing development to the south of the town.

169 The Council proposed to retain the existing three divisions of Prudhoe North, Prudhoe South and Stocksfield & Broomhaugh that cover the parishes of Broomhaugh & Riding, Prudhoe and Stocksfield. These proposals would result in a Prudhoe North division having 11% more electors and their Prudhoe South divisions 19% more electors than the average for the county by 2028. In their submission, the Council stated that they were unable to resolve the poor electoral equality in

Prudhoe without creating problems elsewhere. Their proposed Stocksfield & Broomhaugh division would have an electoral variance of 2% by 2028.

170 We received four more submissions that referred to Prudhoe. One proposed an east-west split to divisions in the town that used Front Street and West Road as boundaries. Another submission proposed a single division for all of Prudhoe parish and the third proposed a minor amendment to the boundary between Prudhoe North and Prudhoe South to better balance electoral equality.

171 The remaining submission, from Councillor Stewart, suggested a single dwelling on Hagg Bank in Prudhoe North division be transferred to Bywell division. As this dwelling is in Prudhoe parish, we cannot transfer it to Bywell division without creating a parish ward within Prudhoe parish solely for the property. It is our view that parish wards with fewer than 100 electors do not provide convenient and effective local government. The way to address potential anomalies such as these is through a Community Governance Review. This process falls within the purview of Northumberland County Council rather than the LGBCE.

172 Having considered the submissions and studied the area in detail we have not been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposal to retain Prudhoe North and Prudhoe South division, given the poor electoral equality that would result.

173 When the forecast electors who will be living in the Prudhoe Hall development are taken into account, Prudhoe is entitled to 2.5 councillors. As a result, it is necessary to include some of Prudhoe parish in a neighbouring division as is currently the case with the inclusion of Mickley parish ward in Stocksfield & Broomhaugh division.

174 We have included the Prudhoe Hall development in our proposed Stocksfield division, whilst the parish of Broomhaugh & Riding moves to Corbridge division to accommodate this change, as discussed below.

175 We also propose to make two changes to the boundary between the existing Prudhoe North and Prudhoe South divisions to improve electoral equality. We have adopted the suggestion made by a local resident to include, 1–22 Castlefields Drive, Cross Street, Rolley Way, Tilley Crescent and Towneley Court in Prudhoe North. As well as improving electoral equality, we consider that this is a better reflection of the community identity of these electors.

176 We also move the boundary between Prudhoe North and Prudhoe South from its existing route along South Road and Highfield Lane to run behind the properties on West Road before heading south towards Prudhoe Community High School. This proposal means that all properties on South Road are included in Prudhoe South

division which we consider better reflects their community identity and provides for good electoral equality for all three divisions.

177 Our proposed draft recommendations are for three single-councillor divisions of Prudhoe North, Prudhoe South and Stocksbridge with electoral variances of 6%, 4% and 3%, respectively, by 2028.

Bywell and Corbridge

178 The Council propose that these two divisions remain unchanged from the existing divisions. Both of these divisions would have electoral equality.

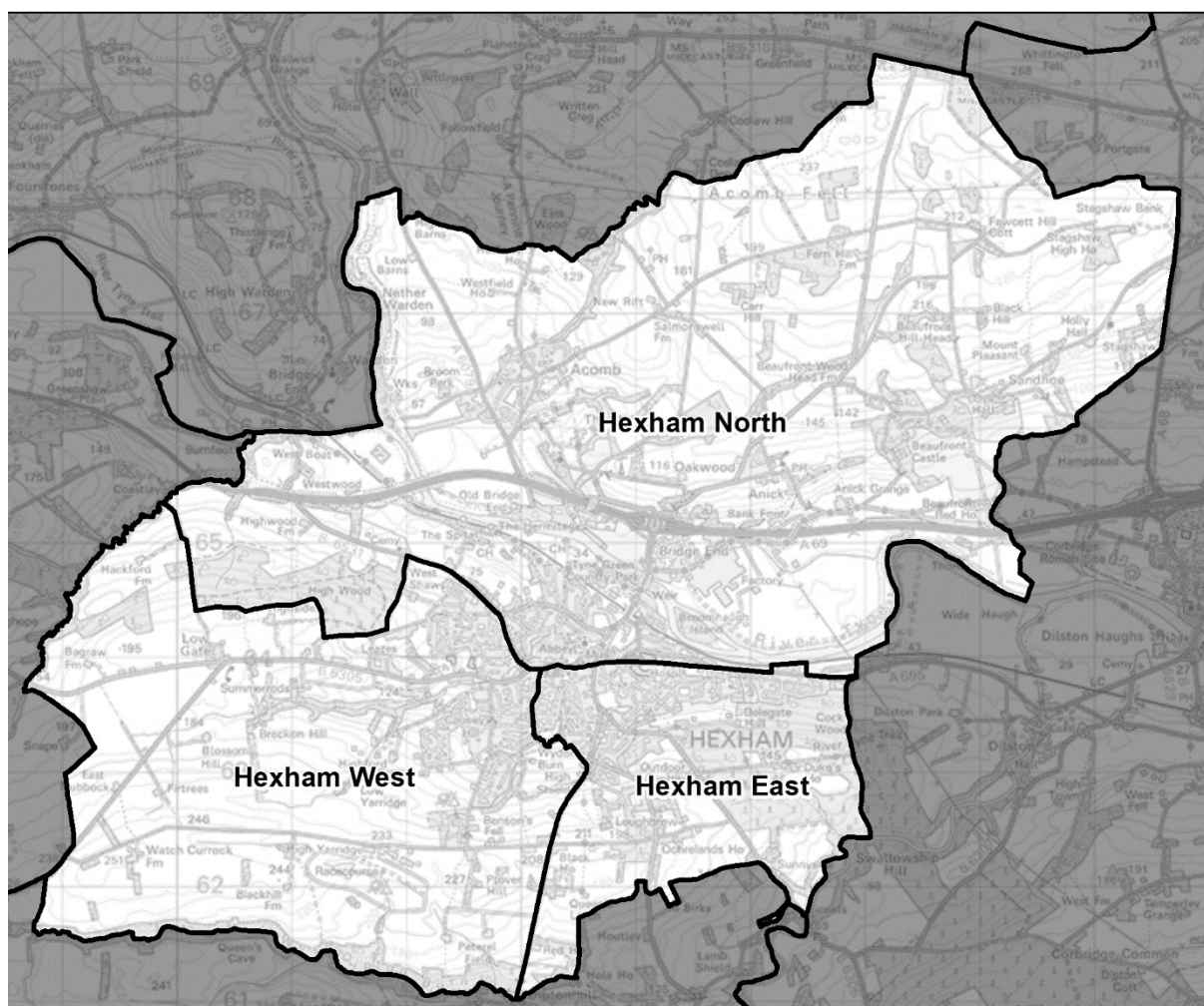
179 We received two other submissions that mentioned these divisions. One submission suggested the Corbridge should remain the focus of its own division, the other submission asked that the parishes of Ovingham and Ovington remain together in Bywell division.

180 Having considered this submission, we propose to retain the existing Bywell division, but we propose to make two changes to the Corbridge division to assist with the drawing up of divisions across the area.

181 We propose to include the parish of Broomhaugh & Riding in Corbridge division to provide for electoral equality in Stocksfield. Including this parish in our proposed Stocksfield division would not provide for electoral equality given the increased number of electors in that division contained on the Prudhoe Hall housing development. We note that Broomhaugh & Riding parish has strong transport connections to Corbridge and beyond towards Hexham. We are interested to hear evidence on the community identity of Broomhaugh & Riding parish in relation to our proposed change. We also propose to move the parish of Sandhoe from Corbridge division to a Hexham division, as discussed below. We note that the parish has strong transport connections to both towns.

182 Our draft recommendations for these two divisions are for two single-councillor divisions of Bywell and Corbridge with variances of -4% and 6%, respectively, by 2028.

Hexham



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Hexham East	1	-1%
Hexham North	1	-10%
Hexham West	1	-8%

Hexham East, Hexham North and Hexham West

183 The existing Hexham Central with Acomb division and the existing Hexham West division are forecast to have 11% and 18% fewer electors than average for the county by 2028.

184 The Council proposed to retain the existing three Hexham divisions under their 69-councillor division pattern. As a result, the variance for Hexham Central with Acomb improves to 8% fewer and Hexham West to 13% fewer.

185 We received one other submission that referred to Hexham which was a suggestion that the town be covered by the three-councillor division.

186 We considered the submissions carefully. We do not consider that there is evidence to justify a three-councillor division for Hexham, in light of the request from the Council that this review should propose single-councillor divisions wherever possible.

187 We also do not consider there is strong evidence to support the variance of Hexham West at -13%. We have therefore sought to provide a division pattern that provides both electoral equality for Hexham and recognises community ties in the town. We also note that our decision to move Sandhoe parish from Corbridge division to a Hexham division, to provide electoral equality in the Corbridge area, means that our division pattern for Hexham has substantial changes to the existing divisions.

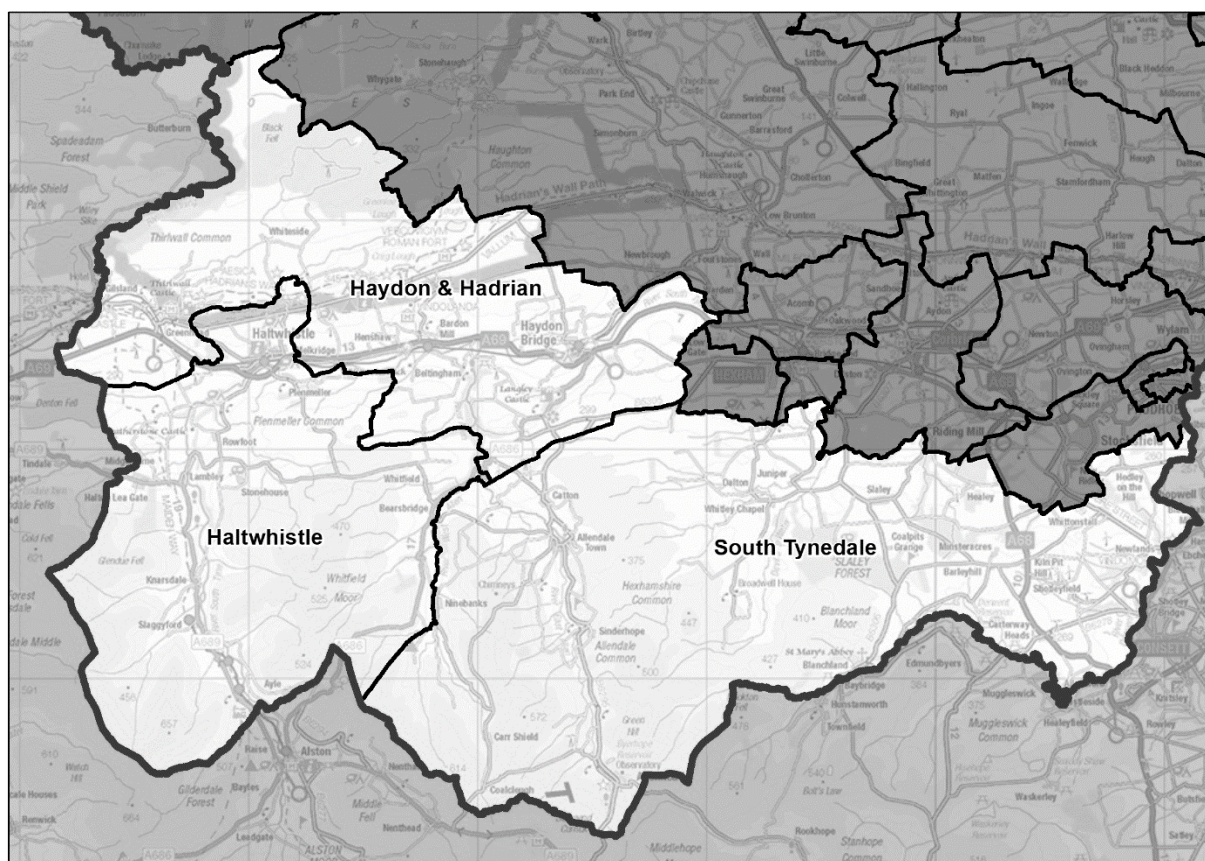
188 We propose a Hexham North division that contains Acomb and Sandhoe parishes along with all electors in Hexham north of a boundary that follows the A695 and B6531, with two small exceptions. We propose Anick View remains in Hexham East division, and we propose electors in two properties to the south of the B6531 (Highwood Farm and Highwood Cottage) are included in Hexham North division.

189 Our proposed Hexham East and Hexham West divisions are comprised of all electors to the south of the A695 and B6531 (except those mentioned in the paragraph above). Our proposed division between Hexham East and Hexham West departs the Hexham North boundary along St Cuthbert's Lane, Longlands and St Mark's Road then follows the existing Hexham East/Hexham West boundary along Dipton Mill Road.

190 We consider that this division pattern provides the best balance of our three statutory criteria. We are particularly interested to hear views from electors in Hexham as to the community ties that exist within the town to ensure our boundaries are in the most appropriate place for the community.

191 Our draft recommendations for Hexham are for three single-councillor divisions of Hexham East, Hexham North and Hexham West with variances of -1%, -10% and -8%, respectively, by 2028.

Rural South Northumberland



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Haltwhistle	1	-2%
Haydon & Hadrian	1	-4%
South Tynedale	1	4%

Haltwhistle, Haydon & Hadrian and South Tynedale

192 The Council's submission for this area proposed three divisions unchanged from the existing divisions. The Council noted that these three divisions would provide electoral equality and that maintaining these divisions would have no negative consequences for the community ties across the area.

193 We received one other submission regarding the division of South Tynedale. This submission from Councillor Stewart suggested that two dwellings on Engine Road in South Tynedale division should be transferred to Prudhoe South. As these dwellings are in Hedley parish, we cannot transfer them to a Prudhoe division without creating an unviable parish ward within Hedley parish solely for the properties.

194 We agree with the Council that these three divisions should be retained unchanged as they continue to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria.

195 Our draft recommendations are for three divisions of Haltwhistle, Haydon & Hadrian and South Tynedale as per the existing divisions. These three divisions will have electoral variances of -2%, -4% and 4%, respectively, by 2028.

Conclusions

196 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Northumberland, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and divisions. A full list of divisions, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the divisions is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	69	69
Number of electoral divisions	68	68
Average number of electors per councillor	3,643	3,856
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	1
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Draft recommendations

Northumberland should be made up of 69 councillors serving 68 divisions representing 67 single-councillor divisions and one two-councillor division. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed divisions for Northumberland. You can also view our draft recommendations for Northumberland on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/northumberland

Parish electoral arrangements

197 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

198 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority division arrangements. However, Northumberland County Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

199 As a result of our proposed division boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Amble-by-the-Sea, Ashington, Blyth, Choppington, Cramlington, Hepscott, Hexham, Morpeth, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Ponteland, Prudhoe, Seaton Valley, West Bedlington and Widdrington Station & Stobswood.

200 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Amble parish.

Draft recommendations

Amble by the Sea Town Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Amble Central	2
Amble East	4
Amble West	3

201 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ashington parish.

Draft recommendations

Ashington Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ashington Central	3
Bothal	3
College	3
Haydon	3
Hirst	3
Seaton	3

202 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Blyth parish.

Draft recommendations

Blyth Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bebside	2
Cowpen	2
Croft	2
Isabella	2
New Delaval	2
Plessey	2
South Blyth	2
Wensleydale	2

203 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Choppington parish.

Draft recommendations

Choppington Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Choppington	4
Stakeford	4
West Sleekburn	1

204 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Cramlington parish.

Draft recommendations

Cramlington Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Cramlington East	2
Cramlington Eastfield	2
Cramlington North	2
Cramlington North West	1
Cramlington South East	2
Cramlington South West	1
Cramlington Village	2

205 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hepscoth parish.

Draft recommendations

Hepscoth Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hepscoth	3
Stobhill Manor	4

206 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hexham parish.

Draft recommendations

Hexham Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Gilesgate	3
Leazes	5
Priestpopple	6

207 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Morpeth parish.

Draft recommendations

Morpeth Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kirkhill	5
North	5
St George's Park	1
Stobhill	4

208 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Newbiggin-by-the-Sea parish.

Draft recommendations

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Newbiggin East	2
Newbiggin North	2
Newbiggin South	3
Newbiggin West	1

209 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ponteland parish.

Draft recommendations

Ponteland Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ponteland East	2
Ponteland North	4
Ponteland South	3
Ponteland West	3

210 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Prudhoe parish.

Draft recommendations

Prudhoe Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Castle & Eltringham	3
Castlefields & Low Prudhoe	2
Mickley	1
Priestclose	4
Prudhoe Hall	1
Prudhoe West & Halfway	2
West Wylam	2

211 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Seaton Valley parish.

Draft recommendations

Seaton Valley Town Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Holywell	3
New Hartley North	1
Seaton Sluice & New Hartley South	2
Seghill with Seaton Delaval	3

212 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for West Bedlington parish.

Draft recommendations

West Bedlington Town Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bedlington Central	4
Bedlington West	4
Park Road	1

213 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Widdrington Station & Stobswood parish.

Draft recommendations

Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Stobswood	1
Widdrington Station East	3
Widdrington Station West	3

Have your say

214 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole county or just a part of it.

215 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Northumberland, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

216 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk

217 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

218 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Northumberland)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

219 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Northumberland which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

220 A good pattern of divisions should:

- 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.

221 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Northumberland?

222 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

223 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the divisions appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed divisions? Is there any form of public transport?

224 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lqbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

225 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

226 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

227 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Northumberland in 2025.

Equalities

228 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Northumberland

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alnwick	2	8,216	4,108	13%	8,802	4,401	14%
2	Amble	1	3,408	3,408	-6%	4,060	4,060	5%
3	Amble West with Warkworth	1	3,534	3,534	-3%	3,863	3,863	0%
4	Ashington Central	1	3,515	3,515	-4%	3,602	3,602	-7%
5	Bamburgh	1	3,548	3,548	-3%	3,698	3,698	-4%
6	Bebside	1	3,549	3,549	-3%	3,655	3,655	-5%
7	Bedlington Central	1	3,756	3,756	3%	3,844	3,844	0%
8	Bedlington East	1	3,679	3,679	1%	3,746	3,746	-3%
9	Bedlington West	1	3,461	3,461	-5%	3,781	3,781	-2%
10	Bellingham	1	3,669	3,669	1%	3,768	3,768	-2%
11	Berwick East	1	3,492	3,492	-4%	3,729	3,729	-3%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Berwick North	1	3,501	3,501	-4%	3,917	3,917	2%
13	Berwick West with Ord	1	3,226	3,226	-11%	3,492	3,492	-9%
14	Bothal	1	3,521	3,521	-3%	3,605	3,605	-7%
15	Bywell	1	3,584	3,584	-2%	3,691	3,691	-4%
16	Choppington	1	3,796	3,796	4%	4,068	4,068	5%
17	College with North Seaton	1	3,741	3,741	3%	3,801	3,801	-1%
18	Corbridge	1	3,854	3,854	6%	4,089	4,089	6%
19	Cowpen	1	3,816	3,816	5%	3,894	3,894	1%
20	Cramlington East	1	3,722	3,722	2%	3,778	3,778	-2%
21	Cramlington Eastfield	1	3,838	3,838	5%	3,941	3,941	2%
22	Cramlington North	1	4,049	4,049	11%	4,131	4,131	7%
23	Cramlington North West	1	3,389	3,389	-7%	3,504	3,504	-9%
24	Cramlington South East	1	3,475	3,475	-5%	3,555	3,555	-8%
25	Cramlington South West	1	1,834	1,834	-50%	3,519	3,519	-9%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26	Cramlington Village	1	3,478	3,478	-5%	3,564	3,564	-8%
27	Croft	1	4,050	4,050	11%	4,135	4,135	7%
28	Druridge Bay	1	3,504	3,504	-4%	3,803	3,803	-1%
29	Haltwhistle	1	3,703	3,703	2%	3,789	3,789	-2%
30	Hartley	1	3,190	3,190	-12%	3,658	3,658	-5%
31	Haydon	1	3,660	3,660	0%	3,744	3,744	-3%
32	Haydon & Hadrian	1	3,619	3,619	-1%	3,689	3,689	-4%
33	Hexham East	1	3,718	3,718	2%	3,816	3,816	-1%
34	Hexham North	1	3,366	3,366	-8%	3,460	3,460	-10%
35	Hexham West	1	3,431	3,431	-6%	3,541	3,541	-8%
36	Hirst	1	3,513	3,513	-4%	3,596	3,596	-7%
37	Holywell	1	3,914	3,914	7%	4,028	4,028	4%
38	Humshaugh	1	3,383	3,383	-7%	3,454	3,454	-10%
39	Isabella	1	4,131	4,131	13%	4,232	4,232	10%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
40 Longhirst	1	3,381	3,381	-7%	3,857	3,857	0%
41 Longhorsley	1	3,408	3,408	-6%	3,829	3,829	-1%
42 Longhoughton	1	3,730	3,730	2%	3,785	3,785	-2%
43 Lynemouth	1	3,696	3,696	1%	4,015	4,015	4%
44 Morpeth Kirkhill	1	4,059	4,059	11%	4,155	4,155	8%
45 Morpeth North	1	4,091	4,091	12%	4,222	4,222	9%
46 Morpeth Stobhill	1	4,012	4,012	10%	4,245	4,245	10%
47 New Delaval & New Hartley	1	3,744	3,744	3%	4,110	4,110	7%
48 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	1	3,883	3,883	7%	3,976	3,976	3%
49 Norham & Islandshires	1	3,553	3,553	-2%	3,675	3,675	-5%
50 Pegswood	1	2,844	2,844	-22%	3,887	3,887	1%
51 Plessey	1	3,841	3,841	5%	3,963	3,963	3%
52 Ponteland East & Stannington	1	3,679	3,679	1%	4,013	4,013	4%
53 Ponteland North	1	3,847	3,847	6%	3,954	3,954	3%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
54	Ponteland South with Heddon	1	4,046	4,046	11%	4,155	4,155	8%
55	Ponteland West	1	3,683	3,683	1%	3,746	3,746	-3%
56	Prudhoe North	1	3,953	3,953	9%	4,075	4,075	6%
57	Prudhoe South	1	3,937	3,937	8%	3,994	3,994	4%
58	Rothbury	1	3,936	3,936	8%	4,150	4,150	8%
59	Seaton with Spital	1	3,418	3,418	-6%	4,207	4,207	9%
60	Seghill with Seaton Delaval	1	4,069	4,069	12%	4,165	4,165	8%
61	Shilbottle	1	3,414	3,414	-6%	3,640	3,640	-6%
62	Sleekburn	1	3,624	3,624	-1%	3,654	3,654	-5%
63	South Blyth	1	3,758	3,758	3%	3,839	3,839	0%
64	South Tynedale	1	3,929	3,929	8%	4,005	4,005	4%
65	Stakeford	1	3,455	3,455	-5%	3,550	3,550	-8%
66	Stocksfield	1	3,503	3,503	-4%	3,976	3,976	3%
67	Wensleydale	1	3,536	3,536	-3%	3,612	3,612	-6%

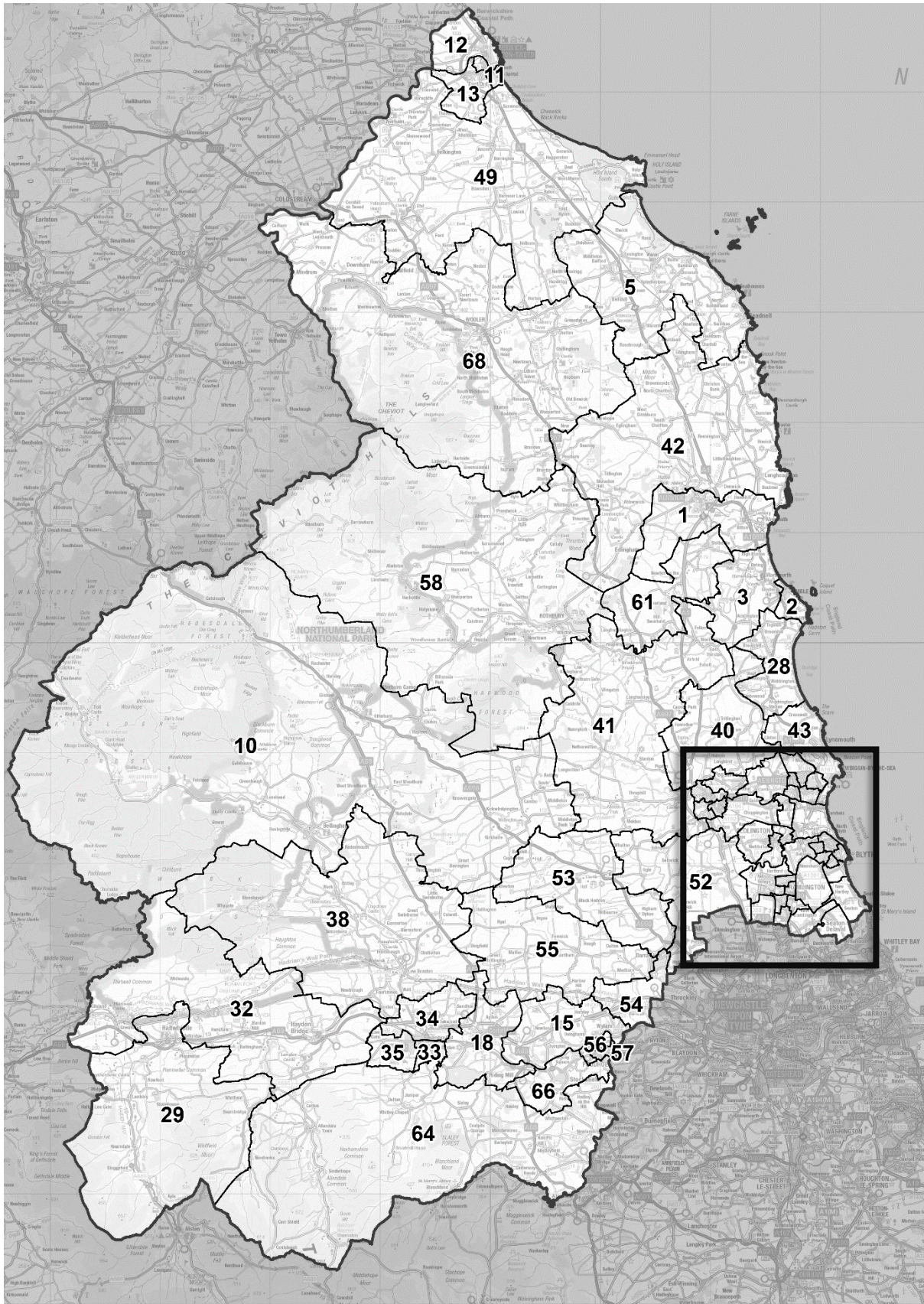
Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
68 Wooler	1	3,501	3,501	-4%	3,602	3,602	-7%
Totals	69	251,363	–	–	266,098	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,643	–	–	3,856	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Northumberland County Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Division name	Number	Division name
1	Alnwick	36	Hirst
2	Amble	37	Holywell
3	Amble West with Warkworth	38	Humshaugh
4	Ashington Central	39	Isabella
5	Bamburgh	40	Longhirst
6	Bebside	41	Longhorsley
7	Bedlington Central	42	Longhoughton
8	Bedlington East	43	Lynemouth
9	Bedlington West	44	Morpeth Kirkhill
10	Bellingham	45	Morpeth North
11	Berwick East	46	Morpeth Stobhill
12	Berwick North	47	New Delaval & New Hartley
13	Berwick West with Ord	48	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea
14	Bothal	49	Norham & Islandshires
15	Bywell	50	Pegswood
16	Choppington	51	Plessey
17	College with North Seaton	52	Ponteland East & Stannington
18	Corbridge	53	Ponteland North
19	Cowpen	54	Ponteland South with Heddon
20	Cramlington East	55	Ponteland West
21	Cramlington Eastfield	56	Prudhoe North
22	Cramlington North	57	Prudhoe South
23	Cramlington North West	58	Rothbury
24	Cramlington South East	59	Seaton with Spital
25	Cramlington South West	60	Seghill with Seaton Delaval
26	Cramlington Village	61	Shilbottle
27	Croft	62	Sleekburn
28	Druridge Bay	63	South Blyth
29	Haltwhistle	64	South Tynedale
30	Hartley	65	Stakeford
31	Haydon	66	Stocksfield
32	Haydon & Hadrian	67	Wensleydale
33	Hexham East	68	Wooler
34	Hexham North		
35	Hexham West		

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/northumberland

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/northumberland

Local Authority

- Northumberland County Council

Political Groups

- Northumberland County Council Green Party Group

Councillors

- Councillor G. Stewart (Northumberland County Council)
- Councillor M. Swinbank (Northumberland County Council)
- Councillor M. Swinburn (Northumberland County Council)

Local Organisations

- Alnwick Civic Society

Parish and Town Councils

- Choppington Parish Council
- Cramlington Town Council
- Glanton Parish Council
- Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council

Local Residents

- 59 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council