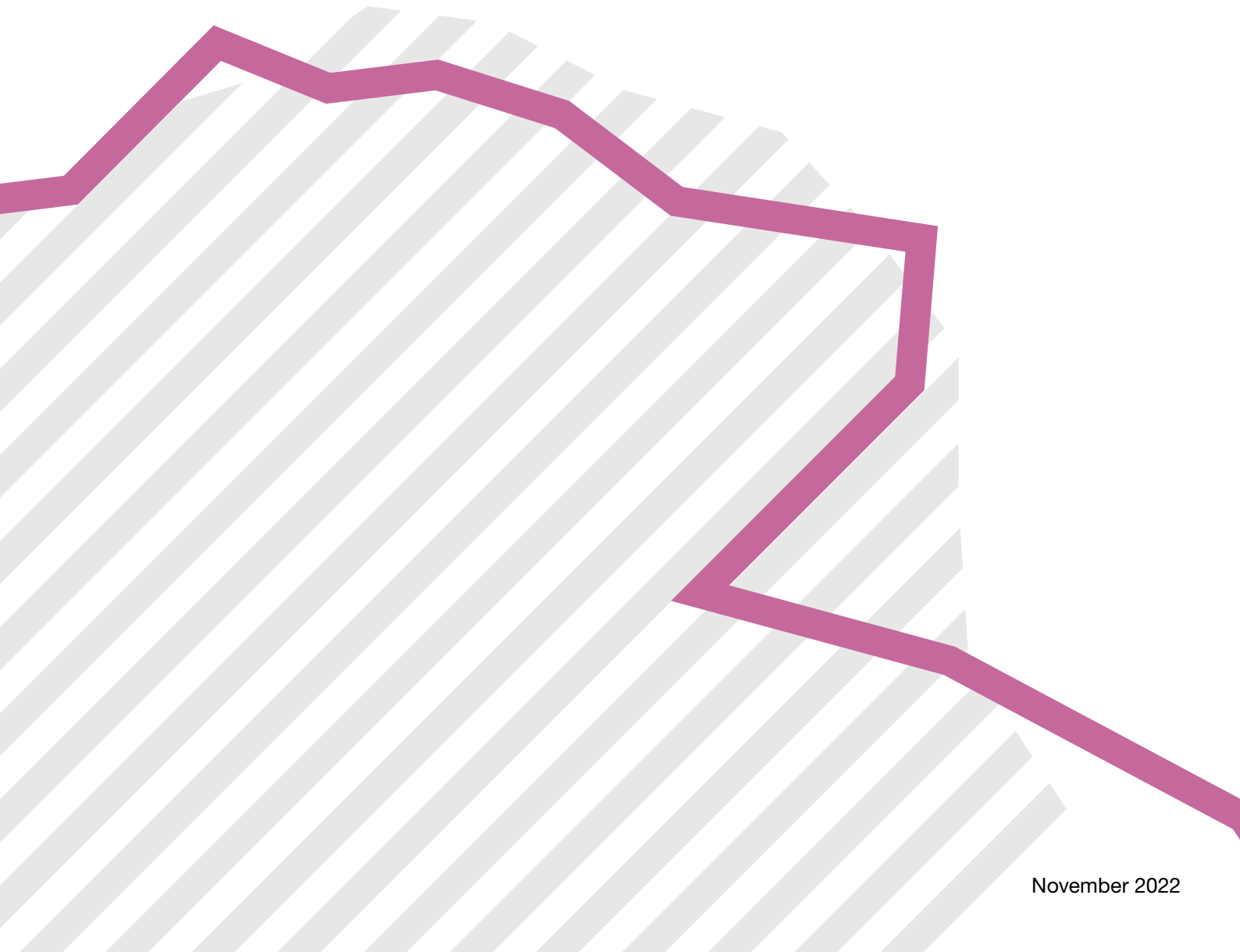


# Revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the **North East** region





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# Summary

## Who we are and what we do – ‘The 2023 Review’<sup>1</sup>

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for periodically reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

We are currently conducting a review on the basis of legal rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020, which will conclude with a final report and recommendations from us by 1 July 2023. The rules require there to still be 650 constituencies across the UK, but more equally distributed across the four parts of the UK, which will see the number of constituencies in England increase to 543. Each (apart from five ‘protected’ constituencies) must also contain a number of electors that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062 (as at the fixed date of 2 March 2020).

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 8 June 2021 and there have been two rounds of statutory consultation relating to those to which we received over 45,000 responses. We have considered all of the comments received and taken them into account in developing our revised proposals, which we are now publishing for final consultation. For each region, a full report sets out a summary of the responses received to previous consultation on our initial proposals, our analysis of those, and the conclusions we have reached as to how the proposals should be revised as a result. The Appendix to each report contains details of the composition of each constituency we are now proposing, and maps to illustrate these can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit.<sup>2</sup>

## What are the revised proposals for the North East region?

We have revised the composition of 17 of the 27 constituencies we proposed in June 2021, and maintained our initial proposals for the remainder. We have revised the name of 12 of our initially proposed constituencies. Our revised proposals would leave two existing constituencies in the North East region wholly unchanged, and two unchanged except to realign constituency boundaries with local government ward boundaries.<sup>3</sup>

As it is not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual unitary authorities, we sometimes group these into sub-regions, meaning some constituencies cross unitary authority boundaries. After consideration of the responses to the sub-regions in our initial proposals, our revised proposals are based on partially amended sub-regions, as follows: ‘North of Tyne’<sup>4</sup> (allocated eight

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<sup>1</sup> Further details about the BCE and 2023 Review are published on our website: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> A list of places of deposit is published on our website (as above).

<sup>3</sup> Where the Order to make such wards was made by 1 December 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland.

constituencies); ‘North East’<sup>5</sup> (allocated 12 constituencies); and ‘Tees Valley’<sup>6</sup> (allocated seven constituencies).

Two constituencies would cross the boundary of Northumberland with Tyne and Wear (Hexham, and Cramlington and Killingworth), with another crossing the boundary of County Durham with Tyne and Wear (Blaydon and Consett).

In the North of Tyne sub-region, we have revised the composition of five of the constituencies in our initial proposals. The majority of change is around Newcastle and North Tyneside, where three proposed ward splits (Castle, Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall, and Riverside) allow multiple local ties to be maintained across the whole area, including the coastal connection between Whitley Bay and Tynemouth (which received over 200 representations across the two previous consultation periods).

In the North East combined authority sub-region, we have revised the composition of ten constituencies from our initial proposals. The borough of Gateshead would no longer have two whole constituencies, instead forming part of four, enabling a significantly more cohesive pattern of constituencies across the City of Sunderland, which would now form part of three constituencies (instead of five in our initial proposals). Further south, a split of Trimdon and Thornley ward would allow local ties to be maintained around the City of Durham, including the regaining of the western wards on the periphery of Durham (Brandon, Deerness, and Esh and Witton Gilbert).

In the Tees Valley sub-region, there would be a relatively small amount of change from our initial proposals. We have revised the composition of two of our initially proposed constituencies, moving wards between Redcar, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland to better reflect coastal community ties. The wards of Longbeck, St. Germain’s, and Saltburn would be transferred to Redcar, with Ladgate, Marton East, and Park End & Beckfield being transferred to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. These two revised constituencies would then be unchanged from their existing shape except to realign constituency boundaries with local government ward boundaries.

## How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for a four-week period, from 8 November 2022 to 5 December 2022. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make our final recommendations and report to Parliament. Our consultation portal at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) has more information about our revised proposals and how to give us your views. You can also follow us on Twitter [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews) or at [facebook.com/BCEReviews](https://facebook.com/BCEReviews).

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<sup>5</sup> County Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

<sup>6</sup> Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees.

# 1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

- 1.1 As already mentioned, BCE is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is required to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We must conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every eight years. Our role is to make recommendations for new constituency boundaries, which are then made by Statutory Instrument and used at the next General Election.
- 1.2 The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but – as an MP themselves – by convention they do not actively participate in the work of the Commission. The Deputy Chair and two further Commissioners determine its policies within the legislative framework, oversee the progression of a Review, and take decisions on the actual proposals and recommendations for new constituency boundaries. Further information about the Commissioners can be found on our regular website.

You can find further information on our regular website at [www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk](http://www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk), or on our consultation portal at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing [information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk), or by calling 020 7276 1102.

## 2 Background to the 2023 Review

- 2.1 We are currently conducting a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020.<sup>7</sup> These rules require us to make the number of electors in each constituency more equal. This report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England (there are separate Commissions for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) and, in particular, introduces our revised proposals for the North East.
- 2.2 Parliamentary boundaries are important, as they define the area in which voters will elect a Member of Parliament. When our recommendations are accepted, they are then used for the first time at the next General Election following their acceptance.
- 2.3 The legislation states that there will be 650 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – the same as the current number, but a statutory formula now distributes that total proportionately across the four parts of the UK. England has therefore been allocated 543 constituencies for the 2023 Review, ten more than there are currently. There are also other rules that the Commission has regard to when conducting the review – a full set of the rules can be found in our Guide to the 2023 Review,<sup>8</sup> but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules require every constituency we recommend to contain no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062.
- 2.4 This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, in which achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim, but there was no statutory fixed minimum and maximum number of electors. This, together with the passage of time since constituencies were last updated (based on data from 2000), means that in England, existing constituencies currently range from 53,210 to 109,246 electors. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the increase in the total allocation of constituencies, means that a significant amount of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.
- 2.5 When implemented, the final recommendations that we will make will be the first set of boundaries to be defined under the new rules. While there has to be a significant amount of change across the country, we have, where practicable, attempted to limit the extent of such change, having regard to the statutory factors and the need to create the best possible pattern for constituencies as a whole. Under the legislation, we have a challenging job in conducting a review of constituency boundaries that is necessarily going to result, in many places, in constituencies that are unfamiliar to the public. Nevertheless, we have conducted the review in a rigorous and thorough fashion.

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<sup>7</sup> The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, available at [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/25/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/25/contents)

<sup>8</sup> Available at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)

- 2.6 The revised proposals that we set out in this report, and in the reports for the other eight regions across England, are made on the basis of the evidence we received during two consultation exercises relating to our initial proposals, the careful consideration of that evidence by the Secretariat and our Assistant Commissioners, and the best judgement of the three Commissioners. We are confident that these revised proposals strike the best balance between the statutory factors and, having consulted twice already, we are close to settling on a final pattern of constituencies to recommend to Parliament next year. There are areas across the country where our judgement has been a balanced and marginal one between competing alternatives, and in such cases we have made clear that we are particularly looking for further evidence before we finalise our recommendations. In many other areas we are persuaded by the evidence we have received thus far, and we would therefore require new and significantly stronger arguments to make us depart from our revised proposals. If it exists, such new and compelling evidence would be welcome, but we will not be assisted by a repetition of arguments that have already been made, and which we have already considered. The requirement to keep constituencies within the permitted range of electors is strict, but otherwise we have sought to balance often conflicting considerations. Our proposals must also be comprehensive. We are acutely aware that very often a change that may seem obvious to make in one constituency necessarily requires far less attractive alterations in one or more neighbouring constituencies, and sometimes the consequential alterations reverberate through a whole chain of constituencies.
- 2.7 Our Guide to the 2023 Review contains further detailed background information, and explains all of the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review. We encourage anyone wishing to respond to the review to read this document, which will give them a greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our revised proposals and/or make their own counter-proposals.

## The rules in the legislation

- 2.8 As well as the primary rule that constituencies must have no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062, the legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may take into account:
- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
  - local government boundaries which existed, or were prospective, on 1 December 2020;
  - boundaries of existing constituencies;
  - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; and
  - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.



- 2.9** In relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that for a given area, where we choose to take account of local government boundaries, if there are prospective boundaries (as at 1 December 2020), it is those, rather than existing boundaries, of which account may be taken. This is a significant change to the former legislation, which referred only to the local government boundaries as they actually existed on the relevant date.
- 2.10** Our initial proposals for the North East (and the accompanying maps) were therefore based on local government boundaries that existed, or – where relevant – were prospective, on 1 December 2020. Our revised proposals contained within this report continue to be based on those boundaries. Our Guide to the 2023 Review outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries. We have used the existing and prospective wards as at 1 December 2020 of unitary authorities, and borough and district councils (in areas where there is also a county council) as the basic building blocks for our proposals.
- 2.11** In a number of existing constituencies, changes to local government wards since constituencies were last updated (in 2010) have resulted in the new ward effectively being split, between the constituency the old ward was wholly a part of, and at least one other existing constituency. As part of our proposals, we will by default seek to realign the boundaries of constituencies with up-to-date ward boundaries, thus reuniting wards that are currently divided between existing constituencies. In places where there has been only a minor change to a ward, this may see an existing constituency boundary change only very slightly, to realign with the new ward. However, where wards in an area have been changed more significantly, this may result in the area covered by the new ward becoming part of a different constituency than the one much of that area was in previously.
- 2.12** Although the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies will inevitably result in significant change, we have also taken into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we can. We tried to retain existing constituencies as part of our initial proposals wherever possible, as long as the other factors could also be satisfied. This, however, proved difficult. Our initial proposals retained just under 7% of the existing constituencies in the North East as wholly unchanged, and no constituencies changed only to realign with changed boundaries of their component wards.
- 2.13** Among the many arguments we heard in response to the consultations on our initial proposals was the need to have particular regard to this factor of the rules to which we work. While some respondents might put a higher value on retaining existing constituency boundaries over the other factors in the rules, the legislation does not give any of these precedence over another, and the Commission therefore considers that its task is to seek to strike the best balance of all the factors in each area, within the numerical constraints.

- 2.14 Our proposals are based on the nine English regions as defined in the legislation; a description of the extent of each region also appears in the Guide to the 2023 Review. This report relates to the North East region. There are eight other separate reports containing our revised proposals for the other regions. At the very beginning of the 2023 Review we decided, in agreement with all the qualifying political parties, to use these regions as discrete areas within which to undertake our work. You can find more details in our Guide to the 2023 Review and on our website. We stated in our initial proposals report that, while this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries, very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us to depart from the region-based approach.
- 2.15 In response to the consultations on our initial proposals, we did not receive sufficient evidence across the country to suggest that we should depart from the regional approach to this review. Therefore, this report, and all other regional reports, continue to use the regional boundaries as the basis for proposals for constituencies.

## **Timetable for our review**

### **Stage one – development of initial proposals**

- 2.16 We began this review in January 2021. We published electorate data from 2 March 2020 (the relevant date specified by the legislation) for each local government ward in England, including – where relevant – wards that were prospective on 1 December 2020. The electorate data was provided by individual local electoral registration officers and the Office for National Statistics. These figures are available on our website. The Commission then considered the statutory factors outlined above and drew up the initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England’s nine regions on 8 June 2021.

### **Stage two – consultation on initial proposals**

- 2.17 We consulted on our initial proposals for eight weeks, from 8 June 2021 until 2 August 2021. We received over 34,000 discrete written representations across the country as a whole, including over 1,500 unique written representations relating to the North East. We are grateful to all those who took the time and effort to read and respond to our initial proposals.

### **Stage three – consultation on representations received**

- 2.18 The legislation required us to publish all the responses we received on our initial proposals. We published the representations on 7 February 2022 ahead of a six-week ‘secondary consultation’ period, which took place from 22 February 2022 until 4 April 2022. The purpose of the secondary consultation was for people to

see what others said in response to our initial proposals, and to make comments on those views, for example by countering an argument, or by supporting and reinforcing what others said. We received over 10,000 unique written representations across the country as a whole, including almost 800 unique representations relating to the North East. We also hosted between two and five public hearings in each region. We heard more than 60 oral representations at the two public hearings in the North East. We are grateful to all those who attended and spoke at our public hearings.

#### **Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals**

**2.19** As we detail in chapter 3 below, having considered the evidence presented to us, we have decided that the evidence is such that it is appropriate to revise our initial proposals in some areas. Therefore, as we are required to do under the legislation, on 8 November 2022, we are publishing this report – *Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the North East region* – alongside eight others, one for each of the other regions in England. We are consulting on our revised proposals for the statutory four-week period, which closes on 5 December 2022. Unlike the secondary consultation period, there is no provision in the legislation for further public hearings. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during this consultation period. It should be noted that this will be the final opportunity for people to contribute their views during the 2023 Review.

#### **Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations**

**2.20** Once the consultation on revised proposals has closed on 5 December 2022, we will consider all the representations received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining our final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a report to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who will lay it before Parliament, at which time we will also publish the report. The legislation states that we should submit that report to the Speaker by 1 July 2023. Further details about what the Government must then do with our recommendations in order to implement them are contained in our Guide to the 2023 Review.

**2.21** Throughout each consultation period, we have taken – and are continuing to take – all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals, so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

# 3 Revised proposals for the North East

3.1 After the consultation on the initial proposals in 2021, we arranged for the appointment of two Assistant Commissioners for the North East region – Tim Foy OBE and Simon Barnes – to assist us with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings held in the region to collect oral evidence, as follows:

- Newcastle: 28 – 29 March 2022
- Middlesbrough: 31 March – 1 April 2022

3.2 We asked the Assistant Commissioners to consider all the written and oral representations, and to make recommendations to us on whether our initial proposals should be revised, in light of evidence provided in the representations. It is important to stress that the Assistant Commissioners had no involvement in developing – and therefore no vested interest in supporting – our initial proposals. Accordingly, they came to the analysis with an independent mind, open to viable alternative proposals supported by evidence. We are very grateful for the thorough and methodical approach the Assistant Commissioners have taken to their work.

3.3 What follows in this chapter is:

- a brief recap of our initial proposals;
- a description of the views and counter-proposals put forward during the consultations;
- the Assistant Commissioners’ analysis of the strength of the arguments for adoption of any of those counter-proposals; and
- our decision on whether or not to make changes to our proposals in the given area.

3.4 A tabular summary of the revised constituencies we now propose appears in the Appendix to this report.

3.5 Throughout this chapter, where we refer to a respondent’s response, we do so by using the reference number, i.e. BCE-12345 (we only include an individual’s name if they gave permission for it to be published). This reference number corresponds with the representations that can be found on our consultation website at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). All representations received in response to the first two consultations are publicly available on this website. The representations received in response to these revised proposals will be published at the end of the review.

## Sub-regions

- 3.6 In the initial proposals the North East region was divided into four sub-regions. These were: (1) Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland; (2) County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland; (3) Gateshead; and (4) Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. The local authorities in the region are all unitary authorities.
- 3.7 Beginning in 2014, the unitary authorities in the region have been reorganised and are now grouped into three combined authorities; North East (County Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside, and Sunderland), North of Tyne (Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland), and Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees). Our sub-regions in the initial proposals mirrored these, with the exception of Gateshead, which we chose to treat separately, as its mathematical entitlement allowed it to have two whole constituencies, which together were coterminous with the local authority boundary.
- 3.8 Neither County Durham nor Northumberland could be allocated a whole number of constituencies on their own, but combining them into a sub-region would result in a constituency that crosses not only a local authority boundary between County Durham and Northumberland, but also the boundary between the North East and North of Tyne combined authorities. Such a constituency would also have been undesirable due to the limited nature of the road links in the area and their susceptibility to closure in the winter months due to snow. It would also require a constituency crossing the River Tyne, which – although there are many links across the river – has been heavily opposed at previous reviews, due to the strong and distinct local community identities on opposite banks of the river. We therefore grouped Northumberland with Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside, keeping the entire North of Tyne Combined Authority in a single sub-region.
- 3.9 Combining County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland into a sub-region allowed us to propose ten constituencies without crossing out of the North East Combined Authority and also preserve Sunderland Central wholly unchanged, avoiding unnecessary disruption as its electorate is within range.
- 3.10 The Tees Valley Combined Authority sub-region was allocated seven constituencies without having to cross the combined authority boundary. Due to the particular distribution of electorates in certain parts of the sub-region, the majority of the constituencies have to be reconfigured to bring them within the permitted electorate range, but we were able to propose a Hartlepool constituency that would remain entirely coterminous with its local authority boundary.

- 3.11** While there was strong support for most of the proposed sub-regions, many respondents to the consultation from Sunderland contended that keeping Gateshead separate forced unnecessary disruption across the rest of the North East Combined Authority sub-region. The Labour Party submitted a counter-proposal (BCE-79502) with a pattern of constituencies that relied upon treating the whole North East combined authority area as one sub-region. Conversely, treating the borough of Gateshead as a separate sub-region received support from Gateshead councillors. At the Newcastle public hearing, Councillor Martin Gannon (BCE-97056) described Gateshead as a ‘distinct community with a strong sense of identity.’ Bridget Phillipson, MP for Houghton and Sunderland South (BCE-82612), recognised the benefits of using the combined authorities in the North East, but she considered that treating Gateshead separately within that, as we did in the initial proposals, may incur, ‘a much higher and disproportionate cost in terms of the extent to which seats elsewhere can reflect real contiguous communities.’
- 3.12** The Assistant Commissioners recognised that, under the initial proposals, although the Sunderland Central constituency would be preserved, the City of Sunderland local authority as a whole would be split across five proposed constituencies, many of which proved contentious during public consultation.
- 3.13** Having considered these issues carefully and reflected on the evidence received, the Assistant Commissioners recognised the strength of the arguments to alter the sub-regional grouping, and recommended Gateshead be part of the same sub-region as the rest of the North East Combined Authority, as this would unlock a more cohesive pattern of constituencies that would better reflect local ties across the whole sub-region. While regretting that in consequence the borough of Gateshead would no longer be self-contained in two constituencies, we agree this is outweighed by the consequential improvements to the pattern of constituencies across the rest of the combined authority area and therefore accept our Assistant Commissioners’ recommendation. We have seen no convincing arguments to revise any other sub-region – resulting in a total of three sub-regions in the North East region, each of which exactly reflects a combined authority area.

## North of Tyne: Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland

### Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside

- 3.14** In our initial proposals, North Tyneside local authority would be split between three constituencies: Newcastle upon Tyne North (crossing the boundary into Newcastle upon Tyne local authority); Tynemouth; and Whitley Bay and Cramlington (crossing the boundary with the Northumberland local authority, and discussed in the Northumberland section below). In our initial proposals for the Tynemouth constituency, we would maintain the River Tyne as a boundary, but orient the constituency to face west, instead of north, recognising the strong road links to Newcastle upon Tyne. Our initially proposed Newcastle upon Tyne North would not include Callerton and Throckley ward, but instead include five wards from North Tyneside: Benton, Camperdown, Killingworth, Longbenton and Weetslade. In the remainder of Newcastle upon Tyne local authority, our initially proposed Newcastle upon Tyne East would include the relatively central Arthur's Hill ward, to bring the constituency within the permitted electorate range. Finally, we proposed that the existing Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency be extended westwards to include the wards of Chapel, Denton & Westerhope, Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall, and Lemington, and the constituency be renamed Newcastle upon Tyne West, as this would better reflect the new orientation.
- 3.15** We received some support for our initial proposals in this sub-region, but also opposition. Both the Labour Party (BCE-79502) and North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party (BCE-81552) put forward counter-proposals that covered these areas. The Labour Party's counter-proposal would minimise change to the outer west of Newcastle upon Tyne, keeping the Callerton and Throckley ward within a Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency. We received around 50 representations in Newcastle upon Tyne at the initial consultation stage that focussed on the Callerton and Throckley orphan ward,<sup>9</sup> which was included in a Hexham constituency in the initial proposals.
- 3.16** Over 300 respondents from the North Tyneside local authority opposed the prospective division of that local authority between three constituencies, including the fact that two of these would cross the local authority boundary: with Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle upon Tyne North); and with Northumberland (Whitley Bay and Cramlington). Alan Campbell, MP for Tynemouth (BCE-97058), mentioned in his Newcastle public hearing representation that the initial proposals were 'unnecessarily disruptive' and were a 'radical change' to North Tyneside.

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<sup>9</sup> Orphan ward refers to a ward from one local authority, in a constituency where all the remaining wards are from at least one other local authority.

- 3.17 As mentioned above, the Labour Party counter-proposal (BCE-79502) would keep the existing Tynemouth constituency relatively unchanged, preserving the coastal communities of Whitley Bay, Cullercoats and Tynemouth together. There was also a counter-proposal from Colin Grant (BCE-76940) that would make a slight modification to the Labour proposal; a split of the Riverside ward at the A19 Tyne Tunnel, as he said it represents a 'physical barrier' that splits the communities in a 'more natural way.' The proposed split would move two polling districts to the west of the A19 (North Tyneside-FA and North Tyneside-FB) into a North Tyneside constituency, and leave the six polling districts east of the A19 (North Tyneside-FC, North Tyneside-FD, North Tyneside-FE, North Tyneside-FF, North Tyneside-FG, North Tyneside-FH) in a Tynemouth constituency. This ward split was endorsed by the North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party in their counter-proposal, BCE-81552, which stated that this Riverside ward split, 'allows you to unite the communities around North Shields while keeping the communities around Wallsend united.' The Assistant Commissioners did note, however, that this counter-proposal would move the Cramlington East ward rather arbitrarily, from the rest of Cramlington into a North Tyneside constituency.
- 3.18 The Assistant Commissioners noted that Callerton and Throckley was referred to as part of the 'Outer West of Newcastle' community in numerous representations, including that of Catherine McKinnell, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North (BCE-67056), who argued that removing Callerton and Throckley from a Newcastle constituency would 'divide these historical community ties across the Outer West of Newcastle.' Conversely, during our secondary consultation we also received evidence supporting the initial proposals for this area, including comments made by a local councillor, Gordan Stewart (BCE-97074) who said, 'large numbers of children from Throckley do come up to Heddon school' and 'people from Heddon use Throckley on a daily basis' for amenities. Guy Opperman, MP for Hexham (BCE-97073), spoke at the Newcastle public hearing in support of the initial proposals for Hexham, and the inclusion of the Callerton and Throckley ward in that constituency, advocating that it 'makes geographical sense and we think it respects the cultural and historical ties.'
- 3.19 We received a number of representations supporting the Labour counter-proposal, particularly as it managed to preserve the 'Outer West', but we also received representations opposing this counter-proposal, not least from Bedlington respondents, who – due to the consequential knock-on effects of that counter-proposal – would be included in a Hexham constituency, and felt this did not respect their ties to Blyth. The Assistant Commissioners drove from Bedlington to Hexham during their site visit to the region, and observed that anyone using main roads would need to pass through two other constituencies under the Labour Party counter-proposal, which they felt indicated that direct links between these areas are almost non-existent.



- 3.20** The North East region received its only petition (BCE-85954) in the North of Tyne sub-region. This had 17 signatories, and advocated for Arthur's Hill ward to be included in a constituency with Newcastle's West End, rather than form part of a Newcastle upon Tyne East constituency. Hayder Qureshi (BCE-83002) outlined how Arthur's Hill and Elswick have 'a strong local identity, established through a network of community and voluntary organisations that collaborate across the west end.'
- 3.21** The Assistant Commissioners noted a representation made by Oskar Avery (BCE-97054), who spoke in support of the Labour counter-proposal, highlighting its benefits in uniting Wallsend in a Newcastle upon Tyne East constituency. Mr Avery mentioned 'very obvious contiguous communities between Wallsend, Walkergate and Walker' where there is 'community and commonality between those communities.'
- 3.22** After considering all the evidence put forward, our Assistant Commissioner recommended to us an alternative pattern of constituencies in this sub-region. They proposed to revise our initially proposed Tynemouth constituency to include one part of Colin Grant's (BCE-76940) counter-proposal. They considered that the split of Riverside ward would preserve local ties in the area and allow a revised Tynemouth constituency to more closely resemble its existing shape, and keep the Wallsend community together west of the A19. Furthermore, they felt it was a natural place to cross between North Tyneside and Newcastle upon Tyne East, due to the community links expressed by Mr Avery. We agree with the recommendation, and therefore propose that the two Riverside ward polling districts west of the A19 – North Tyneside-FA and North Tyneside-FB – be moved into a Newcastle upon Tyne East constituency. As the Wallsend area (part of North Tyneside) is proposed to be in a constituency with eastern parts of Newcastle upon Tyne, we also propose that this constituency be named Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend.
- 3.23** Our Assistant Commissioners recommended that this ward split will be used in conjunction with two others across the sub-region – detailed below – to create a pattern of constituencies across the sub-region that would achieve a better overall fit with the statutory factors. This approach would allow for inclusion of the wards of Arthur's Hill and Monument in the proposed Newcastle upon Tyne West constituency, as representations requested, which the Assistant Commissioners therefore recommended. We agree with this recommendation, and propose the constituency therefore be called Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West in our revised proposals, to better reflect the new composition.
- 3.24** Our considerations and decisions in respect of the remaining three constituencies covering Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside are very much concerned with the extent to which these constituencies cross the boundary with Northumberland, and are therefore covered in more detail below.

## Northumberland

- 3.25** The initial proposals would join Berwick and Morpeth together, reflecting the primarily north/south links, and particularly the A1. Blyth and Ashington would be included together to maintain a shared coastal community. Bedlington and Choppington would also be included in this proposed constituency, as they have good proximity and transport connections to the two larger coastal towns to the east. To avoid our Hexham constituency crossing the combined authority boundary between County Durham and Northumberland we proposed to cross the Newcastle upon Tyne local authority boundary by including the Callerton & Throckley ward, albeit as an ‘orphan ward.’ Finally, the proposed Whitley Bay and Cramlington constituency would cross the Northumberland boundary into North Tyneside.
- 3.26** We received a number of counter-proposals for alternative constituencies within this part of the sub-region, although the initial proposals were supported by the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats. Representations with alternative patterns of constituencies in this sub-region were: BCE-52056, BCE-56954, BCE-65492, BCE-77677, BCE-77985, BCE-80474, BCE-81039, BCE-83196, BCE-85699 and BCE-86770. The Green Party put forward a counter-proposal at the Newcastle public hearing (BCE-97038), which would modify the initial proposals slightly, splitting the Longhorsley ward to better reflect local ties. Under this counter-proposal, the Longhorsley polling districts B38LON, B44THI, W17HEP and W18MIT would join the Berwick and Morpeth constituency, and polling districts B37HAR, B39MEL, B41NET, B42NU, B43ROT and B45WAL would join Hexham: the villages of Eshott, Longhorsley and Thirston would be included in Berwick and Morpeth. As noted above, the Labour Party counter-proposal (BCE-79502) argued for more significant changes to the initial proposals across the sub-region, saying that this would better reflect the local communities in the sub-region.
- 3.27** By far the most contentious issue in the North East region was the initially proposed Whitley Bay and Cramlington constituency, receiving over 200 representations across both consultations. Multiple representations outlined the strong coastal community links between Whitley Bay, Cullercoats and Tynemouth. When talking about Whitley Bay and Cullercoats, John Fenwick (BCE-82766) stated that the ‘two towns share a community identity and are in walking distance, sharing many facilities.’ On site visits to the area, our Assistant Commissioners observed how Whitley Bay and Cullercoats form one contiguous community with no clear break.

- 3.28** The Assistant Commissioners considered that the Labour Party's counter-proposal would have a significant 'domino effect' that would result in an undesirable consequence to the proposed Blyth and Ashington constituency: specifically, their proposed constituency of Hexham would include Bedlington and Choppington. This was opposed during the secondary consultation, with Councillor Wayne Daley (BCE-91946) stating, there are 'no direct public transport links to the Hexham area.' Veronica Jones (BCE-92795) also questioned the local ties between the two areas, stating rather that 'Bedlington has traditionally linked to the south-east of Northumberland and has strong ties to Blyth.'
- 3.29** Both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats also raised concerns at the Newcastle public hearing regarding the Labour counter-proposal, specifically with regard to Bedlington and Choppington being included in a Hexham constituency: the Conservative Party (BCE-97034) described this approach as having 'unnecessary splits where they break local ties'; and the Liberal Democrats (BCE-97048) stated that Bedlington and Choppington were 'significantly distant from Hexham with no obvious community identity or association with Hexham.'
- 3.30** The initially proposed Blyth and Ashington constituency was otherwise largely supported in representations. Jim Lang (BCE-65880) praised how the initial proposals kept the towns of Ashington, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Choppington, Bedlington and Blyth together, 'as the communities share many similar characteristics.' Furthermore, Mr Lang supported the initial proposals as they kept 'the parishes of both Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea intact and wholly within the same constituency.'

- 3.31** The proposed Berwick and Morpeth constituency did divide opinions, with some residents unhappy that Longhorsley ward would be separated from the town of Morpeth. BCE-65798 highlighted that the links across the ward are oriented north/south to Alnwick or Morpeth, with ‘all cultural, economic, medical and travel foci’ of Longhorsley being in the existing Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency. Several representations, including Anne-Marie Trevelyan, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (BCE-71206), requested that the Berwick and Morpeth constituency name include the historically significant town of Alnwick. Alternatively, nine representations suggested simply naming the constituency North Northumberland. Similarly, during the consultation periods we received six representations asking for Bedlington to be included in the name of the proposed Ashington and Blyth constituency, or alternatively for the name to be simply South East Northumberland.
- 3.32** The Assistant Commissioners considered the Green Party’s submission that proposed a split of Longhorsley ward, and a number of representations from Eshott and Longhorsley residents who wished to be included in a constituency with Morpeth. Ultimately, however, the Assistant Commissioners felt there was not a strong enough case to recommend either moving the whole of Longhorsley ward into a constituency including Morpeth or splitting the ward. The Assistant Commissioners considered the responses in relation to the name of the Berwick and Morpeth constituency, but did not feel that there was sufficient justification to either add a third population centre to the name, or take a more generalised approach to the name. We agree with these recommendations, and therefore propose no revision to the composition or name of the Berwick and Morpeth constituency, as initially proposed.
- 3.33** The Assistant Commissioners then considered the initial proposals, and the Labour Party’s counter-proposals, for the rest of Northumberland, North Tyneside, and Newcastle upon Tyne. While they felt there was merit in parts of each of them, they also felt there were significant weaknesses. They considered that in the Labour Party counter-proposal, keeping Callerton and Throckley within the outer west of Newcastle was too disruptive in its consequences for Bedlington and Choppington; it was clear to see during their site visits that these areas have clear, direct transport links to Blyth, and contrastingly very limited connections to Hexham and the west.
- 3.34** The Assistant Commissioners therefore put forward an alternative that sought to deliver more benefits in terms of the statutory factors than either the initial proposals or the Labour Party counter-proposals. Their recommendation would respect the existing pattern of constituencies better than the initial proposals – in particular in the east, keeping Tynemouth relatively unchanged – and

maintain more local ties across the sub-region. The Assistant Commissioners' recommendations were particularly influenced by the large number of representations received in opposition to the initially proposed Whitley Bay and Cramlington constituency.

- 3.35** As detailed above, the Assistant Commissioners recommended a split of the Riverside ward. They deemed this ward split acceptable, as not only would it keep the Wallsend community together, but it also allowed them to address the key issue of the initially proposed Whitley Bay and Cramlington constituency, the most heavily opposed constituency across the North East region. Instead a Tynemouth constituency could be recreated that would be similar to the existing one, in particular incorporating Whitley Bay and Cullercoats.
- 3.36** The Assistant Commissioners did not support the remainder of the counter-proposal for the area put forward by the North Tyneside Constituency Labour Party (BCE-81552), as the Newcastle North and Cramlington constituency in that counter-proposal would split Cramlington, transferring Cramlington East ward to Blyth and Ashington. The Assistant Commissioners instead recommended a Cramlington and Killingworth constituency, crossing the local authority boundary between North Tyneside and Northumberland further inland, where internal links appear better than in the initial proposals.
- 3.37** The Assistant Commissioners' recommended Cramlington and Killingworth constituency would contain a second ward split in the sub-region. This would be a split of Newcastle upon Tyne's Castle ward, along the Hazlerigg civil parish boundary, with the northern polling districts uniting the communities of Brunswick Village, Hazlerigg and Wideopen in the proposed constituency. The Assistant Commissioners acknowledged that this constituency would, as a result, contain parts of three local authorities, but felt that this arrangement would allow for an overall pattern of constituencies in the sub-region that better reflects community ties than either the initial proposals or any of the alternatives proposed.
- 3.38** The final ward split in the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioners for this sub-region would split Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall ward, using the A696 as the divide, as this appears to be a distinct physical barrier between the two communities. The polling district north of the A696 (Newcastle upon Tyne-O04) would be included in a Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency, and the remaining three polling districts south of the road (Newcastle upon Tyne-O01, Newcastle upon Tyne-O02, Newcastle upon Tyne-O03) would be included in a Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West.

- 3.39 Having considered the conflicting evidence received in relation to Callerton and Throckley ward, the Assistant Commissioners felt that there was no clear solution that would attract widespread support. They did not feel that the evidence to split this ward was sufficiently compelling, and a split ward here was not necessary to facilitate wider benefits for the pattern of constituencies across the sub-region as a whole. Taken together with their decision not to endorse either the Labour Party's counter-proposal that would see Bedlington and Choppington included in the Hexham constituency, nor the Green Party's proposal to split the Longhorsley ward, they therefore recommended no change to the initially proposed Hexham constituency.
- 3.40 We agree that the Labour Party counter-proposal would produce a very unsatisfactory outcome for Bedlington and Choppington, and that there was very mixed evidence on the ties of Callerton and Throckley ward. While our policy is to avoid splitting wards other than in exceptional cases, we acknowledge that in this area particularly, there are communities with very distinct local identities, but which are very geographically close to each other. This makes establishing constituency boundaries within a narrow electorate range, while both respecting local government ward boundaries and avoiding splitting any of those communities, often extremely difficult. In that light, we accept the recommendations that three ward splits are required to achieve a pattern of constituencies across the sub-region as a whole that optimally keeps communities together and avoids breaking local ties, while still meeting the permitted electorate range requirement. Accordingly, we propose: no change to our initially proposed Berwick and Morpeth, Hexham, and Blyth and Ashington<sup>10</sup> constituencies; revisions as detailed above to the composition of our initially proposed Newcastle upon Tyne North, and Tynemouth constituencies; and revisions as detailed above to both the name and composition of what would now be Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West, Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend, and Cramlington and Killingworth<sup>11</sup> constituencies.

## **North East: County Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland**

- 3.41 Of the 13 existing constituencies in this sub-region, only three have electorates that are currently within the permitted range: City of Durham; North West Durham; and Sunderland Central. As such a large proportion of the constituencies fall below the permitted electorate range, the overall number of

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<sup>10</sup> In the initial proposals, though the ward listing and reported electorates for the Blyth and Ashington, and Whitley Bay and Cramlington constituencies were accurate, there was a minor error in the indicative mapping. We apologise for any confusion caused and are grateful to those who identified the discrepancy to us. The revised proposal mapping for the relevant area – for the now-proposed constituencies of Blyth and Ashington, and Cramlington and Killingworth – has been corrected.

<sup>11</sup> As the previous footnote.

constituencies to which the area is entitled under the legislation fell to 12. The combination of these factors resulted in a significant amount of change being required to be made for constituencies in the area, with the initial proposals changing all but one existing constituency (Sunderland Central).

### **Gateshead and South Tyneside**

- 3.42** The initial proposals treated the Gateshead local authority as its own sub-region, as it was noted that it could have two constituencies wholly contained within its boundaries (Blaydon and Gateshead). The hard geographic barriers of the River Tyne and the North Sea coast, coupled with a wholly unchanged Sunderland Central to the south, and largely supported South Shields constituency (gaining only Cleadon and East Boldon ward) to the east, then resulted in a Jarrow and Sunderland West constituency that included the three Sunderland wards of Castle, Redhill and St. Anne's.
- 3.43** The Conservative Party (BCE-85491), Green Party (BCE-75305) and Liberal Democrats (BCE-80851) all supported the initial proposals in this area of the sub-region, however both the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats proposed changes further south in the sub-region, which will be outlined below.
- 3.44** The Labour Party (BCE-79502) put forward a counter-proposal including Gateshead in a County Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland sub-region. They proposed dividing Gateshead across parts of four constituencies, and Sunderland across three, with a Blaydon and Consett constituency that would cross the County Durham and Gateshead boundary, and a Jarrow constituency that would include four Gateshead wards (two more than it has currently). Their proposed Gateshead constituency would include the centre of the city and the Whickham area, and their proposed Washington constituency would stretch from Gateshead's Lamesley ward to Sunderland's Redhill ward.
- 3.45** We received over 100 representations from the three Sunderland wards of Castle, Redhill and St. Anne's, expressing clear opposition to being included in a Jarrow constituency. One resident from St. Anne's ward stated in BCE-71787, 'there is no real connection, historically, culturally, or spiritually between my ward and Jarrow.' The Assistant Commissioners noted that not only is St. Anne's ward part of a different local authority, it is also separated from Jarrow by the physical barrier of the River Wear.

- 3.46 The Assistant Commissioners recognised that the Labour Party counter-proposal would more closely resemble the existing Jarrow constituency, which already crosses the local authority boundary between South Tyneside and Gateshead. There was, however, support for the initial proposals from respondents in the Gateshead local authority. As mentioned above, Councillor Martin Gannon (BCE-97056) described Gateshead having a ‘distinct community with a strong sense of identity.’ Councillor Ged Morton (BCE-81387) also supported the initial proposals, as they ‘respect the additional statutory factors such as geographical considerations, they recognise the River Tyne as an important natural boundary as well as local ties of the population.’
- 3.47 There was support for the Labour counter-proposal from Washington respondents, including Sharon Hodgson, MP for Washington and Sunderland West (BCE-97051), who spoke at the Newcastle public hearing, stating in relation to the proposed inclusion of Gateshead wards with Washington that ‘Birtley has a common connection to Washington and the Sunderland West wards in the new constituency via industry, schools and GP practises’ and that ‘the A1 connects Washington, Birtley and Lamesley through historical, well established roads such as Vigo Lane in the south of the constituency to Birtley, and from Springwell village via Eighton Banks to the north of the constituency down to Birtley and Lamesley.’ Local resident, Kevin Roddy (BCE-72525) emphasised that ‘historically Washington and the town of Birtley have always been close. They still share many education, transport, work and shopping links.’
- 3.48 The Assistant Commissioners noted that although the A1 appeared to form a physical barrier between Washington and the two Gateshead wards of Birtley and Lamesley, there was strong support for the two areas being included in the same constituency. Evidence from BCE-78132 outlined the historical ties as ‘Washington families travelled to work at what was then the Royal Ordnance Factory [in Birtley] and socialised at the local pubs and clubs’.
- 3.49 In respect of a potential constituency pairing of Blaydon and Consett put forward in the Labour Party counter-proposal, the Assistant Commissioners visited the area on a site visit and did feel that the two towns are well connected via the A694 and did not discern a significant difference in character as they crossed between local authorities.
- 3.50 The Assistant Commissioners noted support for our proposed South Shields constituency gaining the Cleadon and East Boldon ward, with one respondent stating (BCE-81178) ‘as you drive from South Shields, through Whitburn and into Cleadon, there is a seamless and very natural flow between the town and the villages.’ The representation from Angela Hamilton (BCE-83187) corroborated this, stating, ‘Cleadon and East Boldon are inextricably linked to Whitburn to the East’ with ‘direct, frequent, fast and financially viable public transport links from Cleadon and East Boldon to South Shields town centre.’



**3.51** In considering all the evidence, the Assistant Commissioners noted the support from Gateshead councillors for our initial proposal of two constituencies together coterminous with the Gateshead local authority, but concluded that this advantage was outweighed by the disadvantages in terms of the disruption of local ties, particularly in Sunderland, but also into County Durham. They therefore recommended: a South Shields constituency as initially proposed; a Jarrow constituency to include the four Gateshead wards of Felling, Pelaw and Hewort, Wardley and Leam Lane, and Windy Nook and Whitehills; a Gateshead and Whickham constituency, to include three wards around the Whickham area (Dunston Hill and Whickham East, Whickham North and Whickham South and Sunnyside); a Blaydon and Consett constituency, which would pair the two towns across the Gateshead boundary with County Durham; and a Washington constituency to include the two Gateshead wards of Birtley and Lamesley. While regretting the loss of the two coterminous Gateshead constituencies, we acknowledge the wider benefits to be gained across the sub-region as a whole that this allows, and therefore agree with these recommendations.

## Sunderland

- 3.52** In our initial proposals, Sunderland Central would be wholly unchanged, but the City of Sunderland overall would be split between five constituencies. As mentioned above, the proposed Jarrow and Sunderland West constituency would include the wards of Castle, Redhill and St. Anne's. With the loss of these wards, Washington and Sunderland South West constituency would be reconfigured, gaining instead the wards of Sandhill, Shiney Row, Silksworth and St. Chad's. The proposed Seaham and Peterlee constituency would include Doxford as an orphan ward. Finally, our City of Durham constituency would be extended into Sunderland as far as Houghton-le-Spring.
- 3.53** In their counter-proposals, the Green Party (BCE-75305), Labour Party (BCE-79502), Liberal Democrats (BCE-80851) and Conservative Party (BCE-85491) all would keep Sunderland Central unchanged. As previously mentioned, the Labour Party counter-proposal would allow them to create a more cohesive Sunderland: they also proposed that the existing Houghton and Sunderland South gain one ward, St. Anne's, to bring it within the permitted electorate range.

- 3.54** We received over 100 representations explaining how disruptive our initial proposals were to Sunderland, with Bridget Phillipson, MP for Houghton and Sunderland South (BCE-82612), objecting particularly to the ‘separation of the coalfields wards – Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton, Shiney Row – across two constituencies, given their shared history and identity.’
- 3.55** In respect of the proposed Seaham and Peterlee constituency, Richard Bradley (BCE-55392) pointed out that the Doxford ‘orphan ward’ is ‘separated from the rest of the constituency geographically by the A19 and the band of farmland that circles Sunderland’ and said that their ‘community is in the city.’
- 3.56** Although they generally supported the Commission’s initial proposals across Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, the Liberal Democrats put forward the slight modification of joining the former mining areas of Easington, Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton-le-Spring, Murton and Seaham, together with the Doxford Park area of Sunderland (Doxford ward), arguing that their counter-proposal ‘constitutes a more logical configuration of similar communities along the A19 to the south and south west of Sunderland, and ensuring Houghton-le-Spring, Copt Hill and Hetton are in a constituency with similar local identity and tradition as parts of the former East Durham coalfield along with Seaham, Easington and environs, rather than with the main Sunderland urban area.’
- 3.57** We did receive one counter-proposal from Jonathan Stansby (BCE-58022) that suggested breaking up an otherwise wholly unchanged Sunderland Central constituency: this would solve the contentious Jarrow and Sunderland West constituency, but would retain Doxford as an ‘orphan ward’ in a Seaham and Peterlee constituency.
- 3.58** The Assistant Commissioners felt the Liberal Democrats’ counter-proposal to keep the historic mining communities together had merit, but as it did not address the highly contentious issue of Jarrow and Sunderland West, they did not feel able to endorse it. Similarly, they did not feel able to support the counter-proposal from Jonathan Stansby, given that it changed the otherwise unchanged Sunderland Central constituency that all the qualifying political parties had supported.
- 3.59** Accordingly, the Assistant Commissioners recommended no change to the Sunderland Central constituency as initially proposed, and endorsed the Labour Party counter-proposal to retain a Houghton and Sunderland South constituency unchanged from the existing one, other than to additionally include St. Anne’s ward. We agree with these recommendations.

## County Durham

- 3.60** As mentioned above, two constituencies in the initial proposals would cross the County Durham boundary into the Sunderland local authority: City of Durham, and Seaham and Peterlee. The City of Durham constituency would include the towns of Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton-le-Hole, with Seaham and Peterlee including Doxford as an orphan ward. There would be minimal change to the North Durham constituency, with the addition of the single ward of Burnopfield and Dipton from North West Durham. The remainder of North West Durham would be relatively unchanged, other than to realign its boundaries with changes to local government ward boundaries. The constituencies of Bishop Auckland and Sedgefield would include wards from the existing City of Durham constituency – Brandon and Coxhoe wards respectively – to bring them into the permitted electorate range.
- 3.61** The Conservative Party (BCE-85491) supported the initial proposals in most of the sub-region, but proposed splitting the Deerness ward between the constituencies of North West Durham and Bishop Auckland. Their counter-proposal would allow the towns of Willington and Crook to be kept together, respecting their close community ties.
- 3.62** Similarly, the City of Durham Trust (BCE-73166) supported our initial proposals around Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, but proposed changes in County Durham. The Trust argued against the inclusion of the three Sunderland wards in the City of Durham constituency, proposing that it should include instead the wards to the west of the city: Brandon, Deerness, and the Witton Gilbert part of the Esh and Witton Gilbert ward. In their view, this arrangement would better ‘respect the ‘flow of life’, stating that their counter-proposal ‘is balanced and reflective of the communities within it.’

- 3.63 The Liberal Democrats (BCE-80851) also supported our initial proposals in the north of the sub-region, but put forward changes across County Durham in their counter-proposals. They proposed a City of Durham constituency that would include Chester-le-Street, following the A1 and A167 north. Additionally, they proposed splitting up Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield, with the former joining Bishop Auckland, and the latter being included in a coastal constituency with Peterlee. Finally, they proposed keeping the three towns of Crook, Tow Law and Willington together in their proposed North West Durham, which was an outcome supported by local residents during both consultation periods.
- 3.64 Under the Labour Party (BCE-79502) counter-proposal, the City of Durham would retain the wards to the west of Durham: Brandon, Deerness, Esh and Witton Gilbert and Willington and Hunwick, but transfer the Durham South and Sherburn wards to their proposed Sedgefield and Easington constituencies, respectively.
- 3.65 We received over 150 representations from residents in the wards around the western edge of Durham, opposing their exclusion from the initially proposed City of Durham constituency, due to their strong connections to the city. This was expressed by Nick Rippin (BCE-68871), who highlighted ‘services such as public transport, health and leisure are focussed on the city.’ A similar sentiment was portrayed through representations from residents of Bowburn in the Coxhoe ward, including BCE-87517, which cites strong transport links with the city, via ‘three major bus services (56, 57 & X12) to Durham.’
- 3.66 The Labour Party’s counter-proposal would include the wards to the west of Durham in a City of Durham constituency, but the Assistant Commissioners noted that it would also remove the Durham South ward from the City of Durham constituency and instead include it in Sedgefield. The Assistant Commissioners observed during a site visit that this ward contains large elements of Durham University, which is an integral part of the city. Additionally, the Assistant Commissioners considered the Labour Party’s separation of Spennymoor from Tudhoe surprising, when they form a seemingly contiguous community. Multiple representations were made at the Middlesbrough public hearing, including Lyndsey Fox (BCE-97093), which opposed Labour’s split of Spennymoor and Tudhoe, as ‘the two areas are intrinsically linked’ and ‘strongly connected’ through pubs, community events and schooling. Finally, the Labour counter-proposal would also remove the ward of Sherburn from the existing City of Durham, which has historically been part of the city.
- 3.67 The Assistant Commissioners noted the counter-proposal from Edward Carlsson Browne (BCE-94274), which utilised the Labour counter-proposal across most of the sub-region, but in this area proposed splitting the Trimdon and Thornley ward, to ‘produce better boundaries in three constituencies.’ The proposed ward split would move five polling districts from the north of the ward (Durham-DKC, Durham-EEA, Durham-SNA, Durham-SNB, and Durham-SNC), including

Wheatley Hill and Thornley, into an Easington constituency. These villages have been included in an Easington constituency in the past and have good connections to the east via the A181. The remaining polling districts (Durham-SKB, Durham-SLA, Durham-SLB, Durham-SMB, and Durham-SMC), including the villages of Deaf Hill, Trimdon and Trimdon Grange, would be included in a Sedgfield constituency with which they have good links via Salters Lane. This ward split would allow the Sherburn ward to be retained in a City of Durham constituency, which Edward Carlsson Browne states 'looks to Durham and has been part of the City of Durham constituency since 1918.' Additionally, the Durham South ward, which includes elements of Durham University, could be retained in the City of Durham. Finally, the Trimdon and Thornley ward split proposal would allow the whole of Spennymoor town to be kept together, including the adjacent village of Tudhoe, with which it has strong links.

- 3.68** Our initial proposals would divide Willington from the towns of Crook and Tow Law, but we received several representations advocating for these three towns to be kept together in a constituency. Dehenna Davison, MP for Bishop Auckland, in her representation BCE-84358 opposed the split of the towns, as it would 'sever the strong and historical community link', noting that they formed the Three Towns Area Action Partnership of Durham County Council.

- 3.69 The Assistant Commissioners felt that there was some merit to both the Liberal Democrats' and Conservative Party's counter-proposals for this area. The Liberal Democrats' counter-proposal would keep Willington, Crook and Tow Law together in a single constituency, but the Assistant Commissioners ultimately felt it was too disruptive, as it relied upon retention of the strongly opposed Jarrow and Sunderland West constituency, and the City of Durham constituency would continue to be connected with Chester-le-Street, rather than the adjacent wards to the west of the city.
- 3.70 Furthermore, the Assistant Commissioners did not feel that the Conservative Party's split of Deerness ward would facilitate a more cohesive sub-region in terms of local ties, particularly as their proposed Bishop Auckland constituency would have two disconnected parts, there being no direct route between the Deerness and Brandon wards and the rest of the constituency without crossing through either the City of Durham or North West Durham constituencies.
- 3.71 The Assistant Commissioners therefore recommended Edward Carlsson Browne's modification to the Labour counter-proposal for County Durham, deeming it to be superior to Labour's original counter-proposal in satisfying the statutory factors. Having driven across the proposed ward split during a site visit, the Assistant Commissioners felt there was a clear separation between the communities in the north and south of the Trimdon and Thornley ward. While respecting that splitting of wards should be avoided where possible, the Assistant Commissioners felt this ward split would be justified, as it provides wider benefits by enabling boundaries that better respect local ties across three constituencies.
- 3.72 This revised approach would allow for the City of Durham constituency to more closely resemble the existing constituency, including the wards to the west of the city (Brandon, Deerness, Esh and Witton Gilbert, and Willington and Hunwick), as well as the Durham South ward (keeping Durham University campus together in a single constituency). The final benefit of this ward split solution would keep Spennymoor and Tudhoe together in a constituency with Newton Aycliffe, respecting their strong local ties. The Assistant Commissioners also consequentially recommended changing the name of the latter constituency from Newton Aycliffe and Sedgfield to Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor, to reflect the largest population centres in the constituency, and reverting the name of the proposed Seaham and Peterlee back to Easington.
- 3.73 Under the Assistant Commissioners' recommendations, Crook, Tow Law and Weardale from the existing constituency of North West Durham would instead be included in a revised Bishop Auckland constituency. The Lanchester ward would be included in North Durham, and the Burnopfield and Dipton ward would be in the newly proposed Blaydon and Consett constituency.

- 3.74 We have considered the recommendations of our Assistant Commissioners for County Durham and we accept their recommendation to adopt the counter-proposal of Edward Carlsson Browne for the area, including a split of the Trimdon and Thornley ward as detailed above. We therefore propose revised constituencies as described above, named: Easington; Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor; City of Durham; Bishop Auckland; and North Durham.

### **Tees Valley: Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees**

- 3.75 Of the seven existing constituencies in this sub-region, only three have electorates that are currently within the permitted electorate range: Hartlepool, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, and Stockton South. The Tees Valley Combined Authority has an electorate of 494,601, giving a mathematical entitlement to 6.74 constituencies. Under the initial proposals the number of constituencies in this subregion would remain at seven. In the initial proposals, we proposed change to all of the existing constituencies in this area apart from Hartlepool.
- 3.76 The Green Party (BCE-75305), Labour Party (BCE-79502) and the Liberal Democrats (BCE-80851) all supported the initial proposals in this sub-region, but the Conservative Party put forward a slight alteration across the south-eastern part of the sub-region, which was supported during both consultation periods.

#### **Hartlepool**

- 3.77 In our initial proposals, we proposed to keep the Hartlepool constituency wholly unchanged and coterminous with its local authority boundary. We received no counter-proposals for this constituency. The Assistant Commissioners noted support for the Hartlepool constituency from both the Conservative Party (BCE-85491) and Labour Party (BCE-79502), who both supported no change to the existing constituency, keeping it coterminous with its borough boundary. Therefore, the Assistant Commissioners recommended no change to the initial proposals for Hartlepool constituency, and we agree.

#### **Darlington**

- 3.78 In the initial proposals, Darlington constituency would add a single ward from its rural hinterland in the west (the Heighington & Coniscliffe ward), to bring it within the permitted electorate range, extending the Darlington constituency to the boundary with County Durham.

- 3.79** We did not receive any cogent counter-proposals to our initially proposed Darlington constituency. Although several respondents asked that the wards of Hurworth, and Sadberge & Middleton St. George be included in the Darlington constituency, this was not possible while keeping a pattern of constituencies within the boundary of Tees Valley Combined Authority sub-region, which was widely supported.
- 3.80** During the initial public consultation we received conflicting representations from electors in our proposed Stockton West constituency. As mentioned above, around 40 respondents in the Darlington villages of Hurworth-on-Tees, Middleton St George and Sadberge were opposed to being included in a Stockton constituency, as they felt more connected to Darlington. A Sadberge resident rightly stated in BCE-85415 that the village is ‘under the administrative jurisdiction of Darlington Borough’. Local Councillor Lorraine Tostevin (BCE-81100) argued that residents of Hurworth wish to be part of Darlington, ‘the Borough in which they live, shop, spend their leisure time.’ The Assistant Commissioners noted that an alternative would be to instead include in the Stockton West constituency the ward of Heighington & Coniscliffe. This ward, however, lies to the north and west of Darlington, and would appear to have even fewer connections to Stockton, requiring residents to drive through Darlington to reach Stockton-on-Tees. Conversely, there was some support from respondents in the Darlington villages at being included in Stockton West. A respondent from Middleton St George (BCE-96070) felt that their village is ‘very much interconnected’ with villages in Stockton local authority and ‘the facilities in our village provide community links to a lot of other local villages with our dental and medical practices having patients from the Western Parishes, Hurworth, Eaglescliffe and Hartburn wards.’
- 3.81** The Assistant Commissioners concluded that the initial proposals – including the ward of Heighington & Coniscliffe in the proposed Darlington constituency – is the best option and therefore recommended no changes. We have noted the divergent views on the distribution of Darlington local authority wards between the proposed Darlington and Stockton West constituencies. However, given that the alternatives would either transfer a less appropriate ward to Darlington, or would require altering the sub-region (which was not suggested during either consultation period), we agree with the recommendation to leave the Darlington constituency as we initially proposed.



## Stockton-on-Tees

- 3.82** Our initially proposed Stockton West constituency would include the rural wards of Hurworth, Sadberge & Middleton St. George, and Western Parishes, while transferring the urban Parkfield and Oxbridge ward to Stockton North, and two of the three Thornaby wards to our proposed Middlesbrough constituency, to bring it within the permitted electorate range.
- 3.83** We did not receive a cogent counter-proposal to our initially proposed Stockton North and Stockton West constituencies. During the secondary consultation and public hearings, we received over 75 representations that were supportive of the initial proposals for these constituencies. A Long Newton resident stated in representation BCE-86742 that her village has ‘a long-term association with nearby Middleton St George, many villagers being registered with the GP surgery there.’ Additionally, the Assistant Commissioners were aware of Long Newton residents having strong connections with Yarm, outlined in BCE-86742, stating ‘Long Newton has always identified with Yarm and Eaglescliffe in terms of shopping and attendance at Egglecliffe comprehensive school.’ Electors from the sub-region also outlined good transport links connecting Sadberge with the proposed Stockton West constituency. Craig Harker (BCE-91120) highlighted transport links ‘through Dinsdale Station, Sadberge residents have a direct train to Eaglescliffe, Thornaby and Allens West Stations. Tees Flex bus services also link up Sadberge with Yarm and Stockton.’
- 3.84** With regard to Stockton North, the Assistant Commissioners noted support from residents and Matt Vickers, MP for Stockton South (BCE-82678), who praised our initial proposals for Stockton North, in particular swapping the more urban Parkfield and Oxbridge for the rural Western Parishes ward: ‘Parkfield and Oxbridge areas are a much better fit to Stockton North. The communities are tied inseparably to the Town Centre including through community groups, church attendance, shopping habits and transport links.’
- 3.85** The Assistant Commissioners felt that the social and commercial connections between Hurworth, Sadbergh & Middleton St. George and other villages in the proposed Stockton West constituency are more with Darlington than Stockton West, but links do exist with the latter, and alternative schemes would be more disruptive across two sub-regions. They noted the overwhelming support for the Western Parishes ward to be included in the Stockton West constituency, which would allow the proposed Stockton North to include Parkfield and Oxbridge ward: this would unite communities and use the River Tees as a more natural geographic boundary, and was largely supported. Accordingly, the Assistant Commissioners recommended retaining the initially proposed constituencies and names across Stockton-on-Tees, and, having considered the evidence received, we agree.

## Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland

- 3.86** In the initial proposals, our Middlesbrough constituency would avoid crossing the River Tees, instead including two of the three Thornaby wards, which we acknowledged would divide that town between Middlesbrough and Stockton West constituencies. We considered an alternative option, whereby all three Thornaby wards would be included in the same constituency, but this option would have the ‘domino’ effect of creating a Middlesbrough constituency that would have to cross the River Tees to include both Billingham and an incongruous Northern Parishes rural ward, thereby breaking local ties between these areas and Stockton-on-Tees. On this basis, we chose not to pursue this alternative option.
- 3.87** To bring Redcar within the permitted electorate range in the initial proposals, we included three wards, Ladgate, Marton East, and Park End & Beckfield, from the Borough of Middlesbrough. We proposed that the Redcar constituency be renamed Redcar and Eston, as recognition of this enlargement of the constituency. We also proposed that electors from the villages of Marske-by-the-Sea and New Marske, specifically the wards of Longbeck and St. Germain’s, be included in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, to bring both constituencies within the permitted electorate range.
- 3.88** We received around 200 responses expressing strong opposition from residents living in New Marske and Marske-by-the-Sea, who felt that they had stronger links with Redcar to the north along the coast. BCE-73354 highlighted the similarities in the coastal communities of Redcar, Marske-by-the-Sea and New Marske, stating ‘this is in part because of the geography of Marske & New Marske, and our historic fishing community.’ Furthermore, respondents from Redcar expressed close ties to Marske-by-the-Sea and Saltburn using public transport. Jonathon Manning (BCE-82395) highlighted that these close ties are ‘strengthened by the rail connection between Redcar and Saltburn and the shared beaches and bay.’ Bus routes run predominantly along the coast, with evidence from a New Marske resident in BCE-81745 highlighting that ‘the only bus route serves Redcar’. Thomas Snell (BCE-70783) raised the point that the initial proposals for the Redcar and Eston constituency meant that it would cross the local authority boundary with Middlesbrough.
- 3.89** In response to this, Jacob Young, MP for Redcar (BCE-71814), submitted a counter-proposal that drew a lot of support from residents in the Redcar and Cleveland area (and was also endorsed by the Conservative Party – BCE-85491). This counter-proposal would allow the Redcar constituency to remain unchanged apart from to reflect the new boundaries of the Saltburn ward. Additionally, Jacob Young made the point that the counter-proposal ‘unites the Saltburn, Marske & New Marske Parish Council under one Constituency.’ The Redcar constituency would also be contained within the borough of

Redcar and Cleveland. Furthermore, Jacob Young outlined in his public hearing representation (BCE-97107) how the counter-proposal would 'keep the communities of Marton West, Marton East and Marton Manor together under one constituency', preserving local ties in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

- 3.90** We received around 100 representations from local residents of Thornaby, objecting to the prospective splitting of the town between two constituencies, and outlining the strong and unique community ties in the area. No counter-proposal was presented, however, that would be consistent with the statutory criteria – and Assistant Commissioners have equally not been able to identify one – that would keep the town of Thornaby together in a single constituency without causing substantial disruption elsewhere.
- 3.91** The Assistant Commissioners therefore recommended adopting the counter-proposal submitted by Jacob Young MP. The Assistant Commissioners noted that the majority of representations in this sub-region came from residents in the Marske-by-the-Sea and New Marske area, and that the counter-proposal would avoid breaking local ties in both that area and Marton, and produce constituencies largely unchanged from the existing ones. We therefore accept that the counter-proposal from Jacob Young MP would represent a better approach than the initial proposal in terms of the statutory factors, and propose revising the composition of our proposed Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, and Redcar and Eston constituencies accordingly. We also propose to revert the name of the latter to simply Redcar, reflecting the request of a number of respondents on that issue.
- 3.92** We recognise that our revisions in the Tees Valley sub-region mean that Thornaby will remain split between Middlesbrough and Stockton West constituencies. We feel, however, that our revised proposals are the best available approach we have seen for the sub-region as a whole. In particular, our approach avoids the alternative of having a Middlesbrough constituency that would cross the natural boundary of the River Tees and take in rural areas of Stockton, including Billingham, which would be more disruptive and measure particularly poorly against the statutory factors. To recognise the distinct identity and community of Thornaby, however, we propose a name change to the otherwise unchanged Middlesbrough constituency as initially proposed – to Middlesbrough and Thornaby East.

# 4 How to have your say

- 4.1 We are consulting on our revised proposals for a four-week period, from 8 November to 5 December 2022 inclusive. We encourage everyone to use this last opportunity to help finalise the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear and the more local information that is provided, the more informed our decisions will be before making final recommendations to Parliament.
- 4.2 While people are welcome to write to us on any issue regarding the constituency boundaries we set out in this report and the accompanying maps, our main focus during this final consultation is on those constituencies which we have revised since our initial proposals. While we will consider representations that comment again on the initial proposals that we have not revised, it is likely that particularly compelling further evidence or submissions will be needed to persuade us to depart, at this late stage in the review, from those of our initial proposals, which have withstood intensive scrutiny of objections in the process of consultation and review to which they have already been subject. Representations relating to initial proposals that we have not revised and which simply repeat evidence or arguments that have already been raised in either of the previous two consultation stages are likely to carry little weight with the Commission.
- 4.3 When making comments on our revised proposals, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament, discussed in chapter 2 and in our Guide to the 2023 Review. Most importantly:
- We cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that contain more than 77,062 or fewer than 69,724 electors
  - We are basing our proposals on local government ward boundaries (existing or – where relevant – prospective) as at 1 December 2020 as the building blocks of constituencies – although where there is strong justification for doing so, we will consider dividing a ward between constituencies (see the Guide to the 2023 Review for more detailed information)
  - We have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries – very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.
- 4.4 These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a comment about their local area to bear in mind there may be consequential effects for neighbouring areas that might result from their suggestions. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). What may be a better solution for one location may have undesirable consequences for others. We therefore ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to be aware that their counter-proposals may have an impact on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

## How can you give us your views?

- 4.5 Views on our revised proposals should be given to the Commission in writing. We encourage everyone who wishes to comment on our proposals in writing to do so through our interactive consultation website at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) – you will find all the details you need and can comment directly through the website. The website allows you to explore the map of our proposals and obtain further data, including the electorate sizes of every ward. You can also upload text or data files you may have previously prepared setting out your views.
- 4.6 We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to protecting and using your personal details (available at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)). As these consultations are very much concerned with a respondent's sense of place and community, when publishing responses, we will associate the response with the general locality (e.g. town or village) of the respondent's address, but we will not publish a respondent's name or detailed address with their response, unless they specifically ask us to do so.
- 4.7 It is important to stress that all representations, whether they have been made through our website or sent to us in writing, will be given equal consideration by the Commission.

## What do we want views on?

- 4.8 We would particularly like to ask two things of people responding to our consultation. Firstly, if you support our revised proposals, please tell us so. Past experience suggests that too often people who are happy with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points. That can give a distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to our proposals. Secondly, if you are considering objecting to our revised proposals, please use the resources (such as maps and electorate figures) available on our website and at the places of deposit to put forward counter-proposals that are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.
- 4.9 Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our revised proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. This is the final chance to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, and the more views we get on those constituencies, the more informed our consideration in developing them will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public's views in the final recommendations that we present in 2023.

# Appendix: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
<b>Berwick and Morpeth CC</b>			<b>72,541</b>
	Alnwick	Northumberland	8,072
	Amble	Northumberland	4,017
	Amble West with Warkworth	Northumberland	3,506
	Bamburgh	Northumberland	3,587
	Berwick East	Northumberland	3,398
	Berwick North	Northumberland	3,442
	Berwick West with Ord	Northumberland	3,171
	Druridge Bay	Northumberland	4,268
	Longhoughton	Northumberland	3,547
	Lynemouth	Northumberland	3,442
	Morpeth Kirkehill	Northumberland	4,413
	Morpeth North	Northumberland	4,025
	Morpeth Stobhill	Northumberland	3,619
	Norham and Islandshires	Northumberland	3,649
	Pegswood	Northumberland	4,263
	Rothbury	Northumberland	4,128
	Shilbottle	Northumberland	4,435
	Wooler	Northumberland	3,559
<b>Bishop Auckland CC</b>			<b>70,879</b>
	Barnard Castle East	Durham	6,979
	Barnard Castle West	Durham	6,656
	Bishop Auckland Town	Durham	6,057
	Coundon	Durham	3,177
	Crook	Durham	9,277
	Evenwood	Durham	6,458
	Shildon and Dene Valley	Durham	9,630
	Tow Law	Durham	3,435
	Weardale	Durham	6,618
	West Auckland	Durham	6,545
	Woodhouse Close	Durham	6,047
<b>Blaydon and Consett CC</b>			<b>70,163</b>
	Benfieldside	Durham	6,488

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Burnopfield and Dipton	Durham	6,333
	Consett North	Durham	5,874
	Consett South	Durham	3,598
	Delves Lane	Durham	6,232
	Leadgate and Medomsley	Durham	6,830
	Blaydon	Gateshead	7,197
	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	Gateshead	6,884
	Crawcrook and Greenside	Gateshead	6,917
	Ryton, Crookhill and Stella	Gateshead	6,957
	Winlaton and High Spen	Gateshead	6,853
<b>Blyth and Ashington CC</b>			<b>75,452</b>
	Ashington Central	Northumberland	3,375
	Bedlington Central	Northumberland	3,831
	Bedlington East	Northumberland	3,269
	Bedlington West	Northumberland	3,792
	Bothal	Northumberland	3,835
	Choppington	Northumberland	3,530
	College	Northumberland	3,578
	Cowpen	Northumberland	3,159
	Croft	Northumberland	3,128
	Haydon	Northumberland	3,484
	Hirst	Northumberland	3,313
	Isabella	Northumberland	3,136
	Kitty Brewster	Northumberland	4,871
	Newbiggin Central and East	Northumberland	3,611
	Newsham	Northumberland	3,573
	Plessey	Northumberland	3,305
	Seaton with Newbiggin West	Northumberland	4,063
	Sleekburn	Northumberland	3,365
	South Blyth	Northumberland	3,733
	Stakeford	Northumberland	3,544
	Wensleydale	Northumberland	3,957
<b>City of Durham CC</b>			<b>72,878</b>
	Belmont	Durham	10,129
	Brandon	Durham	7,635
	Deerness	Durham	9,479
	Durham South	Durham	2,204
	Elvet and Gilesgate	Durham	5,740
	Esh and Witton Gilbert	Durham	6,384

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	Durham	10,315
	Neville's Cross	Durham	7,409
	Sherburn	Durham	6,722
	Willington and Hunwick	Durham	6,861
<b>Cramlington and Killingworth CC</b>			<b>73,295</b>
	Castle – part of (polling districts F01, F02, and F03)	Newcastle upon Tyne	3,190
	Camperdown	North Tyneside	7,787
	Killingworth	North Tyneside	8,823
	Valley	North Tyneside	9,785
	Weetslade	North Tyneside	7,979
	Cramlington East	Northumberland	3,150
	Cramlington Eastfield	Northumberland	3,940
	Cramlington North	Northumberland	4,069
	Cramlington South East	Northumberland	3,767
	Cramlington Village	Northumberland	3,610
	Cramlington West	Northumberland	4,480
	Hartley	Northumberland	3,929
	Holywell	Northumberland	4,038
	Seghill with Seaton Delaval	Northumberland	4,748
<b>Darlington CC</b>			<b>70,446</b>
	Bank Top & Lascelles	Darlington	4,590
	Brinkburn & Faverdale	Darlington	4,875
	Cockerton	Darlington	4,775
	College	Darlington	3,425
	Eastbourne	Darlington	4,697
	Harrowgate Hill	Darlington	4,843
	Haughton & Springfield	Darlington	4,842
	Heighington & Coniscliffe	Darlington	3,531
	Hummersknott	Darlington	3,145
	Mowden	Darlington	3,192
	North Road	Darlington	4,323
	Northgate	Darlington	2,509
	Park East	Darlington	4,685
	Park West	Darlington	3,500
	Pierremont	Darlington	4,249
	Red Hall & Lingfield	Darlington	3,163
	Stephenson	Darlington	2,984
	Whinfield	Darlington	3,118



<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
<b>Easington CC</b>			<b>70,043</b>
	Blackhalls	Durham	6,245
	Dawdon	Durham	6,098
	Deneside	Durham	5,435
	Easington	Durham	5,710
	Horden	Durham	5,393
	Murton	Durham	5,817
	Passfield	Durham	3,426
	Peterlee East	Durham	5,415
	Peterlee West	Durham	6,131
	Seaham	Durham	5,365
	Shotton and South Hetton	Durham	6,802
	Trimdon and Thornley – part of (polling districts DKC, EEA, SNA, SNB, and SNC)	Durham	5,112
	Wingate	Durham	3,094
<b>Gateshead and Whickham BC</b>			<b>70,994</b>
	Bridges	Gateshead	5,968
	Chowdene	Gateshead	6,867
	Deckham	Gateshead	6,336
	Dunston and Teams	Gateshead	6,259
	Dunston Hill and Whickham East	Gateshead	6,755
	High Fell	Gateshead	6,041
	Lobley Hill and Bensham	Gateshead	6,880
	Low Fell	Gateshead	7,064
	Saltwell	Gateshead	5,936
	Whickham North	Gateshead	6,349
	Whickham South and Sunnyside	Gateshead	6,539
<b>Hartlepool CC</b>			<b>71,228</b>
	Burn Valley	Hartlepool	5,982
	De Bruce	Hartlepool	5,885
	Fens & Greatham	Hartlepool	5,583
	Foggy Furze	Hartlepool	6,445
	Hart	Hartlepool	6,035
	Headland & Harbour	Hartlepool	6,390
	Manor House	Hartlepool	6,218
	Rossmere	Hartlepool	5,533
	Rural West	Hartlepool	5,491
	Seaton	Hartlepool	5,647

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Throston	Hartlepool	6,302
	Victoria	Hartlepool	5,717
<b>Hexham CC</b>			<b>72,738</b>
	Callerton & Throckley	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,048
	Bellingham	Northumberland	3,105
	Bywell	Northumberland	3,724
	Corbridge	Northumberland	3,398
	Haltwhistle	Northumberland	3,756
	Haydon and Hadrian	Northumberland	3,645
	Hexham Central with Acomb	Northumberland	3,428
	Hexham East	Northumberland	3,519
	Hexham West	Northumberland	3,270
	Humshaugh	Northumberland	3,452
	Longhorsley	Northumberland	3,732
	Ponteland East and Stannington	Northumberland	3,796
	Ponteland North	Northumberland	3,901
	Ponteland South with Heddon	Northumberland	3,387
	Ponteland West	Northumberland	3,480
	Prudhoe North	Northumberland	4,240
	Prudhoe South	Northumberland	3,984
	South Tynedale	Northumberland	3,980
	Stocksfield and Broomhaugh	Northumberland	3,893
<b>Houghton and Sunderland South CC</b>			<b>76,883</b>
	Copt Hill	Sunderland	9,027
	Doxford	Sunderland	7,856
	Hetton	Sunderland	9,171
	Houghton	Sunderland	9,886
	Sandhill	Sunderland	7,790
	Shiney Row	Sunderland	9,697
	Silksworth	Sunderland	8,035
	St. Anne's	Sunderland	7,920
	St. Chad's	Sunderland	7,501
<b>Jarrow BC</b>			<b>71,106</b>
	Felling	Gateshead	5,653
	Pelaw and Heworth	Gateshead	6,520
	Wardley and Leam Lane	Gateshead	6,138
	Windy Nook and Whitehills	Gateshead	7,150

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Bede	South Tyneside	5,839
	Boldon Colliery	South Tyneside	7,313
	Fellgate and Hedworth	South Tyneside	5,717
	Hebburn North	South Tyneside	7,175
	Hebburn South	South Tyneside	7,026
	Monkton	South Tyneside	6,350
	Primrose	South Tyneside	6,225
<b>Middlesbrough and Thornaby East BC</b>			<b>71,742</b>
	Acklam	Middlesbrough	4,491
	Ayresome	Middlesbrough	4,191
	Berwick Hills & Pallister	Middlesbrough	5,865
	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	5,812
	Central	Middlesbrough	5,887
	Kader	Middlesbrough	4,432
	Linthorpe	Middlesbrough	4,517
	Longlands & Beechwood	Middlesbrough	6,462
	Newport	Middlesbrough	5,197
	North Ormesby	Middlesbrough	1,734
	Park	Middlesbrough	6,780
	Trimdon	Middlesbrough	4,428
	Mandale and Victoria	Stockton-on-Tees	7,175
	Stainsby Hill	Stockton-on-Tees	4,771
<b>Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland CC</b>			<b>69,967</b>
	Coulby Newham	Middlesbrough	6,530
	Hemlington	Middlesbrough	4,480
	Ladgate	Middlesbrough	3,984
	Marton East	Middlesbrough	4,498
	Marton West	Middlesbrough	4,402
	Nunthorpe	Middlesbrough	4,227
	Park End & Beckfield	Middlesbrough	5,644
	Stainton & Thornton	Middlesbrough	2,654
	Belmont	Redcar and Cleveland	3,733
	Brotton	Redcar and Cleveland	5,205
	Guisborough	Redcar and Cleveland	5,727
	Hutton	Redcar and Cleveland	5,463
	Lockwood	Redcar and Cleveland	1,862

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Loftus	Redcar and Cleveland	4,765
	Skelton East	Redcar and Cleveland	3,482
	Skelton West	Redcar and Cleveland	3,311
<b>Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West BC</b>			<b>76,460</b>
	Arthur's Hill	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,994
	Benwell & Scotswood	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,770
	Blakelaw	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,630
	Chapel	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,524
	Denton & Westerhope	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,693
	Elswick	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,757
	Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall – part of (polling districts O01, O02, and O03)	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,727
	Lemington	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,298
	Monument	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,594
	West Fenham	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,129
	Wingrove	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,344
<b>Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend BC</b>			<b>76,875</b>
	Byker	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,406
	Heaton	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,106
	Manor Park	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,201
	Ouseburn	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,819
	Walker	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,970
	Walkergate	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,417
	Battle Hill	North Tyneside	8,002

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Howdon	North Tyneside	7,798
	Northumberland	North Tyneside	7,019
	Riverside – part of (polling districts FA and FB)	North Tyneside	2,695
	Wallsend	North Tyneside	7,442
<b>Newcastle upon Tyne North BC</b>			<b>76,503</b>
	Castle – part of (polling districts F04, F05, and F06)	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,123
	Dene & South Gosforth	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,663
	Fawdon & West Gosforth	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,309
	Gosforth	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,889
	Kenton	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,336
	Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall – part of (polling district O04)	Newcastle upon Tyne	1,328
	North Jesmond	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,990
	Parklands	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,924
	South Jesmond	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,878
	Benton	North Tyneside	7,869
	Longbenton	North Tyneside	8,194
<b>Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor CC</b>			<b>71,299</b>
	Aycliffe East	Durham	6,420
	Aycliffe North and Midldridge	Durham	8,406
	Aycliffe West	Durham	5,358
	Bishop Middleham and Cornforth	Durham	2,884
	Chilton	Durham	3,429
	Coxhoe	Durham	9,779
	Ferryhill	Durham	8,125
	Sedgefield	Durham	6,370
	Spennymoor	Durham	8,848
	Trimdon and Thornley – part of (polling districts SKB, SLA, SLB, SMB, and SMC)	Durham	4,636
	Tudhoe	Durham	7,044

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
<b>North Durham CC</b>			<b>73,079</b>
	Annfield Plain	Durham	5,891
	Chester-le-Street East	Durham	3,006
	Chester-le-Street North	Durham	3,071
	Chester-le-Street South	Durham	5,991
	Chester-le-Street West	Durham	5,811
	Central		
	Craghead and South Moor	Durham	5,737
	Lanchester	Durham	6,085
	Lumley	Durham	5,727
	North Lodge	Durham	3,020
	Pelton	Durham	10,227
	Sacrison	Durham	5,638
	Stanley	Durham	6,361
	Tanfield	Durham	6,514
<b>Redcar BC</b>			<b>71,331</b>
	Coatham	Redcar and Cleveland	3,567
	Dormanstown	Redcar and Cleveland	3,463
	Eston	Redcar and Cleveland	5,669
	Grangetown	Redcar and Cleveland	3,800
	Kirkleatham	Redcar and Cleveland	5,517
	Longbeck	Redcar and Cleveland	3,469
	Newcomen	Redcar and Cleveland	3,840
	Normanby	Redcar and Cleveland	5,440
	Ormesby	Redcar and Cleveland	4,933
	Saltburn	Redcar and Cleveland	5,075
	South Bank	Redcar and Cleveland	3,432
	St. Germain's	Redcar and Cleveland	5,678
	Teesville	Redcar and Cleveland	5,074
	West Dyke	Redcar and Cleveland	4,987

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Wheatlands	Redcar and Cleveland	3,908
	Zetland	Redcar and Cleveland	3,479
<b>South Shields BC</b>			<b>69,725</b>
	Beacon and Bents	South Tyneside	6,753
	Biddick and All Saints	South Tyneside	6,453
	Cleadon and East Boldon	South Tyneside	6,929
	Cleadon Park	South Tyneside	5,889
	Harton	South Tyneside	6,680
	Horsley Hill	South Tyneside	6,898
	Simonside and Rekendyke	South Tyneside	6,325
	West Park	South Tyneside	5,481
	Westoe	South Tyneside	6,122
	Whitburn and Marsden	South Tyneside	5,831
	Whiteleas	South Tyneside	6,364
<b>Stockton North CC</b>			<b>69,779</b>
	Billingham Central	Stockton-on-Tees	5,323
	Billingham East	Stockton-on-Tees	4,938
	Billingham North	Stockton-on-Tees	6,987
	Billingham South	Stockton-on-Tees	4,678
	Billingham West	Stockton-on-Tees	4,506
	Hardwick and Salters Lane	Stockton-on-Tees	5,196
	Newtown	Stockton-on-Tees	4,651
	Northern Parishes	Stockton-on-Tees	3,529
	Norton North	Stockton-on-Tees	4,889
	Norton South	Stockton-on-Tees	4,795
	Norton West	Stockton-on-Tees	5,042
	Parkfield and Oxbridge	Stockton-on-Tees	5,861
	Roseworth	Stockton-on-Tees	4,978
	Stockton Town Centre	Stockton-on-Tees	4,406
<b>Stockton West CC</b>			<b>70,108</b>
	Hurworth	Darlington	2,978
	Sadberge & Middleton St. George	Darlington	5,074
	Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	Stockton-on-Tees	5,024
	Eaglescliffe	Stockton-on-Tees	8,305
	Fairfield	Stockton-on-Tees	4,549
	Grangefield	Stockton-on-Tees	5,163
	Hartburn	Stockton-on-Tees	5,269

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
	Ingleby Barwick East	Stockton-on-Tees	7,833
	Ingleby Barwick West	Stockton-on-Tees	9,479
	Village	Stockton-on-Tees	5,115
	Western Parishes	Stockton-on-Tees	2,862
	Yarm	Stockton-on-Tees	8,457
<b>Sunderland Central BC</b>			<b>72,688</b>
	Barnes	Sunderland	8,435
	Fulwell	Sunderland	8,987
	Hendon	Sunderland	7,759
	Millfield	Sunderland	7,109
	Pallion	Sunderland	7,631
	Ryhope	Sunderland	8,497
	Southwick	Sunderland	7,881
	St. Michael's	Sunderland	8,335
	St. Peter's	Sunderland	8,054
<b>Tynemouth BC</b>			<b>73,022</b>
	Chirton	North Tyneside	7,672
	Collingwood	North Tyneside	8,360
	Cullercoats	North Tyneside	7,551
	Monkseaton North	North Tyneside	6,989
	Monkseaton South	North Tyneside	7,593
	Preston	North Tyneside	6,646
	Riverside – part of (polling districts FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, and FH)	North Tyneside	5,425
	St. Mary's	North Tyneside	7,162
	Tynemouth	North Tyneside	8,374
	Whitley Bay	North Tyneside	7,250
<b>Washington BC</b>			<b>71,775</b>
	Birtley	Gateshead	6,127
	Lamesley	Gateshead	7,229
	Castle	Sunderland	8,210
	Redhill	Sunderland	7,987
	Washington Central	Sunderland	8,550
	Washington East	Sunderland	9,090
	Washington North	Sunderland	7,935
	Washington South	Sunderland	7,837
	Washington West	Sunderland	8,810



# Glossary

Assistant Commissioner	Independent person appointed at the request of the BCE to assist it with the discharge of its functions.	Public hearing	Formal opportunity during the secondary consultation period for people to make oral representations, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner.
Borough constituency (abbreviated to BC)	The designation for a Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.	Representations	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the BCE on its initial or revised proposals (or on the representations of others), either for or against, including counter-proposals and petitions.
County constituency (abbreviated to CC)	The designation for a Parliamentary constituency containing more than a small rural element.	Review date	The ‘effective date’ at which electorate and local government boundary data is fixed so that we can then work with it on a stable basis. Defined by the 2020 Act for the 2023 Review as 2 March 2020 for the electorate numbers, and 1 December 2020 for local government boundaries.
Designation	Official classification as either a borough constituency or a county constituency. The designation of a constituency guides the determination of who the returning officer will be, and determines how much candidates can spend, in any election for that constituency.	Revised proposals	The initial proposals as subsequently revised.
Electorate	The number of registered Parliamentary electors in a given area.	Rules	The statutory criteria for Parliamentary constituencies recommended by a Parliamentary Boundary Commission, as set out in Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by Acts up to and including the 2020 Act).
(Statutory/ Permitted) Electorate range	The statutory rule that requires the electorate of every recommended constituency to be – for the 2023 Review – between 69,724 and 77,062.	UK electoral quota	The average number of electors in a constituency, found by dividing the total electorate of the UK (less that of the five specific ‘protected’ constituencies in the UK) by 645.
Final recommendations	The recommendations submitted in a formal final report to Parliament at the end of a review. They may – or may not – have been amended since the earlier proposals in any given area.	Unitary authority	An area where there is only one tier of ‘principal area’ local council (above any parish or town council). Contrasted with those ‘shire district’ areas that have two tiers (i.e. both a non-metropolitan county council and a district/borough/ city council).
Initial proposals	First formal proposals published by the BCE during the review for public consultation.		
Periodical report	Report to Parliament following a general review of Parliamentary constituencies.		
Places of deposit	In each proposed constituency the Commission will make available hard copies of its revised proposals (including report and maps). The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals are usually the offices of the relevant local authority, although other public places such as libraries may be used. The Commission will publish a full list of places of deposit on its website.		





