



Boundary Commission for England

Initial proposals - North East

Contents

Contents	1
Allocation of constituencies	2
Sub-regions	3
Headline numbers and summary of schemes	5
Breakdown of schemes by sub-region/county	7
Preferred Scheme	7
Alternative Scheme 1	9
Names of constituencies (preferred scheme)	11

2023 Review

Electoral Quota = 73,393

Electorate range = 69,724 - 77,062

Allocation of constituencies

Table 1: Allocation of constituencies by ceremonial/metropolitan county

County/metropolitan county	Electorate	Mathematical constituency entitlement
County Durham	393,533	5.36
Northumberland	249,414	3.40
Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton on Tees)	494,601	6.74
Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, and Sunderland)	815,451	11.11

Totals	1,952,999	26.61
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Sub-regions

Table 2: Headline numbers by sub-region

Sub-region	Electorate	Mathematical Constituency entitlement	Existing constituencies	Proposed constituencies	Average constituency size of proposed sub-region
Preferred sub-regions					
Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland	596,886	8.13	9	8	74,611
County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland	716,893	9.77	11	10	71,689
Gateshead	144,619	1.97	2	2	72,309
Hartlepool	71,228	0.97	1	1	71,228
Tees Valley, excluding Hartlepool	423,373	5.77	6	6	70,562
Alternative sub-regions (changes only)					

County Durham, and Northumberland	642,947	8.76	10	9	71,439
Tyne and Wear, excluding Gateshead	670,832	9.14	10	9	74,537
Region Totals	1,952,999	26.61	29	27	72,333

The sub-regions are the same in each of the schemes presented.

A single alternative is mentioned in the table above, but we did not produce a full scheme using these sub-regions. Neither County Durham nor Northumberland can be allocated a whole number of constituencies, and combining them into a sub-region creates a local authority crossing between County Durham and Northumberland, and the North East, and North of Tyne Combined Authorities. This is a difficult place to cross, given the limited number of road links in the area and even these frequently being closed due to snow in the winter. It also requires a crossing of the River Tyne in the Tyne and Wear ceremonial county, which - although there are many links across the river- has been heavily opposed at previous reviews due to the strong local identities on each side of the river.

Both Gateshead and Hartlepool can have constituencies that are wholly contained within their local authority boundaries, so can be treated in effect as their own sub-regions.

Headline numbers and summary of schemes

Table 3: Headline numbers for schemes

Schemes	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial/ metropolitan county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewording only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Preferred Scheme	2	0	11	14	17	10	0	4	0	2	21
Alternative Scheme 1	2	2	8	15	17	10	0	4	0	2	18

No wards are split in either our preferred or alternative schemes.

The Secretariat's aim has been to have regard to existing constituencies by retaining as many unchanged as is practicable, while also taking into account the other statutory factors. In particular, this has had to be balanced against the requirement to reduce the total number of constituencies in the North East region by two, a relatively high percentage of the 29 constituencies it currently has, which therefore forces significant change.

The significant geographic features which have been considered in creating these proposals are the River Tees, the River Tyne, the River Wear, and the Pennines.

The local authorities in the region are all unitary authorities. Beginning in 2014, they 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). The Secretariat's preferred sub-regions mirror these, with exceptions for Gateshead and Hartlepool, as these can be dealt with in a self-contained way. None of our proposals cross a combined authority boundary.

The electorates of the existing constituencies of City of Durham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, North West Durham, Stockton South, and Sunderland Central are all within the permitted electorate range. However, changes to ward configurations by the LGBCE, and necessary changes to neighbouring constituencies, force changes to all of these, apart from Hartlepool and Sunderland Central, in both our preferred and alternative schemes.

The borough of Gateshead has a mathematical entitlement to 1.97 constituencies. Two constituencies can be constructed - Blaydon and Gateshead - by moving just three wards, and a single option for this is therefore included as part of the Secretariat's preferred and alternative schemes.

The borough of Hartlepool has a mathematical entitlement to 0.97 of a constituency. The existing constituency is coterminous with the borough, and the Secretariat's preferred and alternative schemes both retain the existing Hartlepool constituency.

Breakdown of schemes by sub-region/county

Preferred Scheme

Table 4A: Preferred Scheme - sub-region/county breakdown

Sub-region/ county	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial/ metropolitan county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewarding only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberla nd	0	0	2	6	5	3	0	2*	0	1	5
County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland	1	0	5	4	7	3	0	2**	0	1	8
Gateshead	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hartlepool	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tees Valley,	0	0	3	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	5

excluding Hartlepool											
Totals	2	0	8	15	17	10	0	4	0	2	21

* Cramlington and Whitley Bay crosses the county boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (North Tyneside); Hexham crosses the county boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (Newcastle upon Tyne)

** City of Durham crosses the county boundary between County Durham, and Tyne and Wear (Sunderland); Easington crosses the county boundary between County Durham, and Tyne and Wear (Sunderland)

Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland

There is a complete reconfiguration with the loss of one constituency and the creation of a Cramlington and Whitley Bay constituency crossing the Northumberland boundary with Tyne and Wear into North Tyneside. An Ashington and Blyth constituency is created, maintaining coastal ties, in both the preferred and alternative schemes. Morpeth becomes part of Berwick-upon-Tweed in both the preferred and alternative schemes, which better reflects its north/south links due to its proximity to the A1 road.

County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland

The Sunderland Central constituency is retained, but the remaining nine constituencies are all changed. The North Durham constituency is changed by the addition of the single electoral division of Burnopfield and Dipton. The City of Durham constituency is extended into the borough of Sunderland as far as Houghton-le-Spring. The Jarrow constituency includes wards from the west side of the city of Sunderland, and transfers a single ward to South Shields constituency. The Easington constituency is extended a little to the west, and also includes Doxford ward as an orphan ward from the borough of Sunderland. The constituencies of Bishop Auckland, and Sedgefield, have gained electoral divisions from the City of Durham. In this pattern, Sedgefield avoids crossing the local authority boundary from County Durham into Tees Valley, as it does in its current configuration.

Gateshead

The constituencies of Blaydon and Gateshead, have both added wards to reach the permitted electorate range, and the boundary of the borough of Gateshead is not crossed.

Hartlepool

The Hartlepool constituency is retained unchanged from the current configuration, and remains coterminous with the borough of Hartlepool.

Tees Valley, excluding Hartlepool

The Darlington constituency adds a ward from its rural hinterland to extend it to the boundary with County Durham. Stockton South adds several rural wards to its west and south. Stockton North gives up a rural ward to a new Stockton West constituency and receives one of its urban wards, to bring it within the permitted electorate range. The Middlesbrough constituency includes two of the three Thornaby wards, dividing the village between the Stockton West and Middlesbrough constituencies. The Redcar constituency includes wards from the borough of Middlesbrough, while transferring electors from the villages of Marske-by-the-Sea and New Marske to the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Alternative Scheme 1

Table 4B: Alternative Scheme 1 - sub-region/county breakdown

Sub-region/ county	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial/ metropolitan county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewording only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberla	0	0	2	6	5	3	0	2*	0	1	5

nd											
County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland	1	0	4	5	7	3	0	2**	0	1	7
Gateshead	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hartlepool	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tees Valley, excluding Hartlepool	0	2	1	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	3
Totals	2	2	11	12	16	9	0	4	0	2	18

* Cramlington and Whitley Bay crosses the county boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (North Tyneside); Hexham crosses the county boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (Newcastle upon Tyne)

** City of Durham crosses the county boundary between County Durham, and Tyne and Wear (Sunderland); Easington crosses the county boundary between County Durham, and Tyne and Wear (Sunderland)

Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland

The alternative scheme differs from the preferred scheme only in a handful of wards between the Berwick-upon-Tweed and Hexham constituencies, and between the Hexham, Newcastle upon Tyne North, and Newcastle upon Tyne West constituencies. The more isolated orphan Castle ward from Newcastle upon Tyne is included in the Hexham constituency instead of the Callerton & Throckley Ward, with a consequential move of the Kenton ward between the Newcastle North and West constituencies. The Longhorsley, and Rothbury electoral divisions are exchanged between the Berwick-upon-Tweed and Hexham constituencies.

These two changes can be considered separately from one another.

County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland

Sunderland Central constituency is retained, and the City of Durham, Easington, North Durham, and South Shields constituencies are as presented in the preferred scheme. The Jarrow constituency has added wards from the west side of the town of Washington. Washington has in turn added wards from the west side of the city of Sunderland. This reduces the number of constituencies into which the city of Sunderland is divided by one, but divides Washington instead. The constituency of Bishop Auckland loses the areas around Spennymoor and Wilmington, and gains the Newton Aycliffe area. A new Spennymoor constituency includes most of the current Sedgefield constituency.

The Jarrow changes can be considered separately from the Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor changes.

Gateshead

This sub-region is the same as in the preferred scheme.

Hartlepool

This sub-region is the same as in the preferred scheme.

Tees Valley, excluding Hartlepool

The Darlington constituency is the same as in the preferred scheme. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, and Redcar constituencies are changed only by rewording. The Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees constituencies are reconfigured. Stockton West replaces much of the current Stockton South constituency, giving the wards south of the River Tees to create a new Middlesbrough West and Thornaby constituency. A new Middlesbrough North and Billington constituency crosses the River Tees.

Names of constituencies (preferred scheme)

Table 5: Constituency names and designations

Constituency name and designation	Name unchanged?	Designation unchanged?
Ashington and Blyth CC		
Berwick-upon-Tweed CC	✓	✓
Bishop Auckland CC	✓	✓
Blaydon CC	✓	✓
City of Durham CC	✓	✓
Cramlington and Whitley Bay CC		
Darlington CC	✓	
Easington CC	✓	✓
Gateshead BC	✓	✓
Hartlepool BC	✓	✓
Hexham CC	✓	✓
Jarrow and Sunderland West BC		
Middlesbrough BC	✓	✓
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland CC	✓	✓

Newcastle upon Tyne East BC	✓	✓
Newcastle upon Tyne North BC	✓	✓
Newcastle upon Tyne West BC		
North Durham CC	✓	✓
North West Durham CC	✓	✓
Redcar BC	✓	✓
Sedgefield CC	✓	✓
South Shields BC	✓	✓
Stockton North BC	✓	✓
Stockton West CC		
Sunderland Central BC	✓	✓
Tynemouth BC	✓	✓
Washington and Sunderland South West BC		