

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 1 February 2024

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 1 February 2024 at 6.00 pm in Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

Present

Dame N Redfearn DBE (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor L Bones
Councillor S Burtenshaw	Councillor K Clark
Councillor D Cox	Councillor S Cox
Councillor J Cruddas	Councillor E Darke
Councillor S Day	Councillor D Drummond
Councillor P Earley	Councillor S Graham
Councillor I Grayson	Councillor M Hall
Councillor T Hallway	Councillor J Harrison
Councillor A Holdsworth	Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor C Johnson	Councillor J Johnsson
Councillor C Johnston	Councillor J Kirwin
Councillor F Lott	Councillor W Lott
Councillor I McAlpine	Councillor J Montague
Councillor J Mudzingwa	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor M Murphy	Councillor A Newman
Councillor P Oliver	Councillor R O'Keefe
Councillor J O'Shea	Councillor E Parker-Leonard
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor O Scargill
Councillor M Thirlaway	Councillor J Walker
Councillor J Wallace	

Apologies: Councillor G Bell, Councillor L Bell, Councillor B Burdis, Councillor M Fox, Councillor John Hunter, Councillor V Jamieson, Councillor G Madden, Councillor L Marshall, Councillor P McIntyre, Councillor A McMullen, Councillor B Pickard, Councillor W Samuel, Councillor J Shaw, Councillor A Spowart and Councillor M Wilson

C81/23 To receive any Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C82/23 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Council were presented with a report confirming the position with regards to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. Since 2013 all local authorities must review their polling districts and polling places every 5 years. This review is compulsory, and is legally required to take place within set timeframes.

North Tyneside Council's latest review became due to begin in October 2023. Since that time a comprehensive review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations has taken place. Members are familiar with the reviews undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England over the last two years. These reviews have changed the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies covering North Tyneside and also the internal ward boundaries in the borough of North Tyneside itself. The review of polling districts and polling places has been important to reflect these changes, and to make sure we can administer all elections correctly with regard to the new boundaries. This includes the forthcoming local elections which will take place on 2 May 2024 and the next Parliamentary election to take place, whenever that may be called.

During the review of our polling districts, polling places and polling stations, views have been invited from a wide variety of stakeholders. This has included our residents, elected members, Members of Parliament, and all political parties which are known to be active in North Tyneside. Very importantly, the views of North Tyneside Disability Forum have been sought. Acting Returning Officers from neighbouring local authorities have also been asked for their views, which is a legal requirement.

Comments received from polling station and elections staff when we have held

elections in the past have been weighed when evaluating our polling place and polling station arrangements. The Acting Returning Officer has sought to gather all relevant evidence to make informed recommendations to Council.

Council would like to thank, in particular, all those who have taken the time to give their views during the consultation. Council would also like to thank the officers, throughout the Authority, who have worked hard on the boundary review and on this polling district and polling place review. Thanks were also expressed to the councillors drawn from all groups on the Council who have taken part in the cross-party Elected Member Boundary Review Group over the last two years. This informal working group of members has worked hard, and very effectively, to deliver all of the tasks required on the boundary review and the polling district and polling place review.

Having carefully considered all comments received during the review, and all available evidence, the Acting Returning Officer's proposals for our future polling districts, polling places and polling stations are set out in the report before Council this evening. Council is required to consider these proposals and to make a decision on the arrangements for North Tyneside. We need to be ready with new arrangements as we approach our next elections.

Council **RESOLVED:** that 1) the outcome of the review of polling places and polling districts be noted and that the Returning Officer's proposals as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved, and 2) the Returning Officer be authorised to publish the outcome of the review of polling places and polling districts (as agreed by Council) at Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY, in at least one conspicuous place within the Authority's area and on the Authority's website.