



North Tyneside Council

Council

To All Members of the Council

Wednesday, 24 January 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside to be held in **Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY** at 6.00 pm on **Thursday, 1 February 2024** for the transaction of the following business.

Agenda

Page(s)

Item

1. **Apologies**
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest**

You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.

Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.

You are also invited to disclose any dispensation from the requirement to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matter appearing on the agenda.

If you need us to do anything differently (reasonable adjustments) to help you access our services, including providing this information in another language or format, please contact democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk.

3. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

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The Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) introduced a The Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) introduced a compulsory duty for all parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every five years. Such a compulsory review in North Tyneside fell due to take place in a period commencing not earlier than 1 October 2023, and public notice of the review was therefore published on 3 October 2023.

This report sets out the Returning Officer's final proposals for polling districts and polling places arising from the compulsory review having considered all responses received during consultation undertaken during the review process.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 1 February 2024

Title: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Dame Norma Redfearn DBE
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Report from Service Area: Governance

Responsible Officer: Jon Ritchie
Director of Resources

Tel: (0191) 643 5720

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) introduced a compulsory duty for all parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every five years. Such a compulsory review in North Tyneside fell due to take place in a period commencing not earlier than 1 October 2023, and public notice of the review was therefore published on 3 October 2023.

This review of polling districts and polling places has taken the opportunity to consider and reflect the outcomes from ‘the 2023 Review’ undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) which has made changes to Parliamentary constituencies which cover North Tyneside, and which will become effective from the date of the next UK Parliamentary election to be called; and the outcomes of a separate Electoral Review recently concluded by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), which will change North Tyneside’s wards and ward boundaries, effective from the next local elections on 2 May 2024.

This report sets out the Returning Officer's final proposals for polling districts and polling places arising from the compulsory review having considered all responses received during consultation undertaken during the review process.

A relevant local authority is required to formally consider the results of the compulsory review of polling places and polling districts (hereafter referred to as 'the review'), decide on future polling district and polling place arrangements, and to publish its findings.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the review of polling places and polling districts and approves the Returning Officer's proposals as set out in **Appendix 1**; and
2. Authorises the Returning Officer 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.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This report was included on the Forward Plan published on 8 December 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not align directly to any of the priorities in the Council Plan but is required to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation, namely the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013).

1.5 Information:

Background

- 1.5.1 A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area, such as a parliamentary constituency or council ward, for the purposes of administering an election. A polling place is the building or area in which the Returning Officer will allocate a polling station. A polling station is the room / area within the polling place where the actual process of voting

takes place. Unlike polling districts which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the Returning Officer for the election.

- 1.5.2 It is a legal requirement for relevant local authorities to periodically review polling districts and polling places within their area. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places, requiring that such reviews must take place every five years commencing from October 2013. The last review of polling places and polling districts in North Tyneside commenced in October 2018 and concluded in September 2019. The current five-yearly review must commence no earlier than 1 October 2023 and be concluded within 16 months of that date.
- 1.5.3 As part of the compulsory review local authorities must consider the accessibility of potential polling stations when considering designating or reviewing a polling place. All electors should have such reasonable facilities for voting which are practicable in the circumstances; and so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place must be accessible to electors who are disabled. The Electoral Commission has published information on factors to be considered when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places, including location, size, availability, accessibility requirements (an accessibility checklist) and the requirements of the Elections Act 2022. This guidance, along with all legal requirements, has been carefully considered during the review.
- 1.5.4 It should be noted that polling places and polling districts adopted for Parliamentary elections will also be effective for local government elections.

Recent Boundary Reviews

- 1.5.5 In 2023 the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) made final recommendations regarding the future location and boundaries of UK Parliamentary constituencies in what has become known as 'the 2023 Review'. This makes changes to constituencies covering North Tyneside which will be effective from the next Parliamentary general election to be called. From the time of the next Parliamentary election, the geographical area of North Tyneside will be covered by Tynemouth Borough Constituency; part of Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Borough Constituency; part of Newcastle upon Tyne North Borough Constituency; and part of Cramlington and Killingworth Constituency.

- 1.5.6 Meanwhile in 2021 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) notified the Authority of its intention to conduct an Electoral Review of North Tyneside. This Electoral Review took place between 2021 and 2023. Final recommendations were published by the LGBCE on 31 October 2023 and a draft Order, which will give effect to these recommendations, was laid before Parliament on 12 December 2023. The Order is expected to lie in Parliament for 40 parliamentary days, after which time it will be approved and made. The LGBCE's recommendations make changes to all of North Tyneside's current wards and ward boundaries.
- 1.5.7 Accordingly, as part of this review, it has been necessary to reflect the BCE's changes to Parliamentary constituencies; and to reflect the imminent LGBCE changes to North Tyneside's wards. The review has also addressed the fact that following the BCE and LGBCE reviews, Parliamentary and ward boundaries will not initially be coterminous, requiring the designation of specific polling districts to manage this.
- 1.5.8 The recommendations in the proposals presented to Council in this report therefore take account of all upcoming changes created from the respective BCE and LGBCE boundary reviews, effective from the next Parliamentary and local election dates (respectively).

Process of Review

- 1.5.9 A public notice advising of the details of the review was published on the Authority's website, and at the Authority's Quadrant Office and in Customer First Centres, on 3 October 2023. This launched an initial period of public consultation which ran from 3 October 2023 to 20 November 2023. This public consultation was also highlighted via the Authority's social media channels.
- 1.5.10 Any elector in the constituency may make representations on the designation of polling places and this was emphasised in the public notice, on the Authority's website and in the Authority's social media postings. Representations were also specifically invited from current Members of Parliament in North Tyneside, all serving North Tyneside Councillors, the Elected Mayor and political parties known to be active in North Tyneside (i.e. those political parties which have fielded candidates to stand for election in the most recent polls held). The (Acting) Returning Officers of neighbouring constituencies which will cover parts of North Tyneside following the 2023 Review were also invited to make representations, as required by legislation. By doing so, key stakeholders involved in the electoral process have been given the opportunity to participate in the review.

- 1.5.11 In reviewing polling places, representations were actively sought from persons / organisations considered to have particular expertise in relation to the access to premises and facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Assistance was sought from the North Tyneside Disability Forum to assist in the fulfilment of this requirement.
- 1.5.12 Following the initial consultation period which ended on 20 November 2023, the Returning Officer produced and published a set of proposals for future polling districts and polling places on 4 December 2023. Again, the views of those stakeholders referenced above were sought and representations were invited in a second round of consultation which ran from 4 December 2023 to 1 January 2024.
- 1.5.13 Having considered all representations received, and having regard to legislative requirements and the Electoral Commission's guidance, the Returning Officer has produced a final set of proposals attached to this report as **Appendix 1** for Council's consideration. These proposals also reflect experience gained from recent elections and feedback of elections staff who have managed polling stations at these elections, along with feedback from other stakeholders in the elections process, and the likely availability of premises for future elections. For these reasons, these proposals are recommended for approval by full Council.
- 1.5.14 Any changes agreed by Council to polling districts will be incorporated in a republished Register of Electors in February 2024. Notice of intention to republish the Register of Electors after full Council has made its decision on the matters in this report appeared in the Journal Newspaper, and in public notices displayed within the Quadrant site and in Customer First Centres, from 18 January 2024. The Register will be republished after 1 February 2024 and any amendments agreed to the proposed list of polling places will be introduced at elections held after that date.
- 1.5.15 Following the current review, details of the new polling districts and polling places must be made available to the public at the Authority's offices at Quadrant, in at least one conspicuous place in each constituency, and on the Authority's website. Together with the reasons for the final decision of the review, the following must also be published:
- (a) all correspondence sent to the Returning Officer in connection with the review

- (b) all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority contacted because they have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for disabled people
- (c) all representations made by any person in connection with the review
- (d) the minutes of any meeting held by the authority to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review
- (e) details of the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review; and
- (f) details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

1.5.16 Following the conclusion of the review, certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission if those persons consider that the review has not met the reasonable requirements of the electors in a constituency (or any body of electors) or take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place. Section 18D (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 sets out who may make representations to the Electoral Commission, namely:

- (a) any parish council (North Tyneside does not have any)
- (b) 30 or more registered electors in a constituency (although electors registered anonymously cannot make a representation)
- (c) a person who made representations to the Authority when the review was being undertaken
- (d) a non-elector whom the Commission determines has a sufficient interest or expertise in relation to the accessibility of disabled persons to the polling stations.

1.5.17 All representations made to the Electoral Commission must be in writing. The representations must be as specific as possible and should clearly state the manner in which it is alleged that the Authority has failed to properly conduct the review. These are:

- (a) the Authority has failed to take into account the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency
- (b) the Authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility to disabled persons of the polling station(s) within a polling place.

1.5.18 Representations based on any other premise will not be considered. The Electoral Commission will set out in writing its conclusions and the reasons for its decision and may direct the Authority to consider any alterations to the

polling places that the Electoral Commission deems necessary under the review.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

To receive and agree the changes to the Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in **Appendix 1** attached to this report.

Option 2

To request that officers undertake further work to identify alternative proposals to those submitted to full Council and report back to a future Council meeting.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- (a) The review outlined in this report fulfils a number of important requirements on the Authority, including a duty to implement polling district and polling place arrangements which will put into effect the outcomes from recent boundary reviews undertaken by the BCE and LGBCE. With regard to changes brought about by the LGBCE review in particular, these are timebound as arrangements must be in place to reflect new ward arrangements for the forthcoming local elections which will take place on 2 May 2024. To ensure that the necessary electoral administration can be undertaken in time for the local elections on that date, it is essential that new polling districts and polling places are agreed by Council as soon as possible. If they are not agreed at this juncture there may not be sufficient time for the required preparation necessary for the local elections in May 2024. It is also important to note that a Parliamentary (general) election could be called at any time; the Authority will be required to run this according to the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. Agreeing the proposals in this report will ensure that arrangements are in place to respond if a Parliamentary election were to be called at short notice
- (b) The review as set out has been informed by engagement with members of the public, those MPs currently serving North Tyneside, the Elected Mayor, Elected Members, and political parties active in North Tyneside

- (c) Importantly, the review has also been informed by consultation with those considered to have particular expertise in relation to the access to premises and facilities for persons who have different forms of disability
- (d) The review has also engaged with (Acting) Returning Officers for every parliamentary election to be held in a constituency which is wholly or partly in the Authority's area
- (e) The review has considered intelligence gained from debriefs following previous elections which have taken place in North Tyneside in which feedback from officers involved in administering elections, and other stakeholders, has been considered.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix I: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – Returning Officer's Final Proposals (for agreement by Council)

1.9 Contact officers:

Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance (telephone 0191 643 5720)
 Emma Rothery, Manager: Electoral Services (telephone 0191 643 5720)

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Notice of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review, 3 October 2023 (<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/notice-related-files/Notice%20of%20Polling%20District%20and%20Polling%20Place%20Review.pdf>)
- (2) Returning Officer's Submission for Consultation, 4 December 2023 (https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/notice-related-files/%28Acting%29%20Returning%20Officer%20Submission%20-%204%20December%202023%20-%20for%20consultation_0.pdf)
- (3) Interactive Map showing proposed Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
<https://ntcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=594a6ab672d44e9087aa8cdd569ce84e>
- (4) Representation of the People Act 1983, Schedule A1 and Section 18 ([Representation of the People Act 1983 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/1))
- (5) Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 ([Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/18))

- (6) 2023 Guidance issued by the Electoral Commission regarding reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places ([Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations \(electoralcommission.org.uk\)](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk))

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no additional costs arising from the review of Polling Places. The proposed reduction in the number of temporary polling stations will bring about a very slight reduction in costs for polling stations.

2.2 Legal

The requirements of the relevant legislation (the Representation of the People Act 1983, and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) are set out in the main body of this report. The five-yearly review of polling districts and polling places set out in this legislation is compulsory, and must be started and completed within 16 months of 1 October 2023.

In addition, the proposals as set out in this report allow the Authority to put into effect the outcomes from recent reviews by the BCE or LGBCE which are, or are shortly to become, the subject of Parliamentary Order. As such the Authority is required to implement these Orders.

It is clear from the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 that the functions relating to elections referred to in this report are matters for full Council.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor and all councillors were invited to submit representations on polling places and polling places during the initial consultation period of 3 October 2023 to 20 November 2023; and again, following publication of the Returning Officer's proposals on 4 December 2023, in a second round of consultation from 4 December 2023 to 1 January 2024.

The proposals appended to this report were also shared with the Elected Member Boundary Review Group, which is a cross-party group at which all

political groups are represented and which has co-ordinated elected member input to the boundary review process.

Following the local elections in May 2023, as in previous years, feedback on the election arrangements was sought from a variety of Authority staff who participated in the administration of the election including Polling Station Inspectors and Polling Station Officers.

2.3.2 External consultation / engagement

An initial public consultation exercise was undertaken during the period 3 October 2023 to 20 November 2023, with a further round of consultation in relation to the Returning Officer's draft proposals which were published on 4 December 2023 and which ran until 1 January 2024.

This was open to all North Tyneside residents and publicised via the Authority's website and through social media. Letters inviting representations were sent to the current North Tyneside Members of Parliament, to North Tyneside Disability Forum, to (Acting) Returning Officers of areas which will cover parts of North Tyneside following the 2023 Review, and to political parties known to have been recently active in North Tyneside.

2.4 Human rights

This report supports Protocol 1 Article 3 of the Human Rights Act which provides a right to free elections.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The proposals support the Authority's equality and diversity responsibilities by seeking to provide all electors with reasonable and practicable facilities to vote. A 'Business as Usual' Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Changes to the current polling place /polling district proposals will be subject to further equality impact assessments as they arise.

2.6 Risk management

Risks have been assessed and will be escalated for management if required under the Authority's established risk hierarchy.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X

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Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, 2023/24 – Returning Officer’s Final Proposals

(for consideration by Council on 1 February 2024)

An interactive map of wards showing proposed polling districts, polling places and polling stations may be viewed here. The proposals below should be read in conjunction with this map.

<https://ntcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=594a6ab672d44e9087aa8cdd569ce84e>

Ward	Returning Officer’s Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
A Weetslade Ward	<p>(formerly Weetslade Ward and part Camperdown Ward)</p> <p>No changes proposed to the existing polling districts or polling places in former Weetslade ward.</p>	<p>No issues or concerns identified with regard to polling districts / polling places in former Weetslade ward; polling station electorate is within recommended tolerances set by the Electoral Commission</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
B Camperdown Ward	<p>(formerly parts of Weetslade, Camperdown and Longbenton Wards; when the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, the Camperdown ward will be situated across the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency and Newcastle upon Tyne North Borough Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling District BA takes in a small section of Polling District AE but there are no properties included within this section • Polling District BB takes on a small section of Polling District AA • Create a new Polling District BC to keep this area within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency • Create new Polling District BD which forms West Moor and the new housing development east of the A189. This area must be kept separate as it falls into Newcastle upon Tyne North Borough Constituency • As electors to the very south east of Polling District BC (Yates Close) would potentially have to travel over one mile north to Festival Cottages to cast their vote, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes the use of the Authority's Killingworth Site as a new Polling Place. The new Polling Place has been assessed and meets all the criteria set out in the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and is closer to Yates Close by ½ mile. The Polling Station will be in the Training Room in Block A and will be adequately sign posted from the main road 	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer notes the distance from the furthest street in Polling District BD exceeds one mile, however, following investigation, there were no alternative buildings to hire in the area.</p> <p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Camperdown Ward and therefore does not propose any changes to the existing arrangements.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
C Longbenton and Benton Ward	<p>(formerly parts of Longbenton Ward and Benton Ward; when the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Longbenton & Benton Ward will lie within the Newcastle upon Tyne North Borough Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new Polling District CA, to incorporate part of the former Benton Ward, Polling District ED. This runs from the Metro line south, to the Ward boundary • Merge CB and CC and rename CB • Polling District CC to incorporate the industrial area up to the north Ward boundary, formerly part of Polling District CA 	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to merge Polling Districts CB and CC to ensure that the Polling Place falls within the Polling District. He is aware that the electorate voting in person at this Polling Station exceeds the recommended number given by the Electoral Commission. To mitigate this, the Polling Station will be a double station.</p> <p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Longbenton & Benton Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes to the existing arrangements.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
D Killingworth Ward	<p>(formerly part Killingworth Ward and part Camperdown Ward; when the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Killingworth Ward lies within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency. As indicated on the interactive map, Killingworth Ward has been reduced in geographical size to incorporate all of Polling District DA, part DB and part BC.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To merge Polling District DA with the Killingworth Village area of Polling District DB • Polling District BC part is renamed to Polling District DB. 	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer notes that Polling District DA electorate slightly exceeds the recommended maximum number of polling station electors. This will be mitigated with the use of a double station. However, the polling station electorate and turnouts will be kept under review and if necessary, an interim review will be conducted to consider changes to the Polling District.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is aware that there will be a high proportion of electorate attending the White Swan Centre to cast their vote. Consideration had been given to using Bailey Green Primary School, however, due to parking and children's safety, it was not a viable option.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is of the opinion that the room in the White Swan Centre could comfortably accommodate the required amount of Polling Stations and electorate, therefore, no other changes to the Polling Place is proposed.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
E Forest Hall Ward	<p>(formerly parts of Benton, Longbenton and Killingworth Wards; when the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Forest Hall Ward lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne North Borough Constituency and the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling District EA to remain unchanged • The south boundary of Polling District EB to be extended to the Metro line to incorporate streets to Goathland Avenue and then further extended east of Station Road to Whitley Road • Polling District EC to remain unchanged • Polling District EE to be renamed ED • New Polling District EE to be created (formerly part of Killingworth Ward) to incorporate the area east of Bamburgh Road to the boundary of the Ward. New Polling district EE falls into the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency and therefore must remain independent. 	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer received a complaint from a resident about pedestrian access to the Church Hall at St Bartholomew's Church from their car park. The complainant advised that the path was long and was on an incline which made it difficult for her husband to walk to the Polling Place. Alternative pedestrian access via the Churchyard was available, however on inspection, some of the footpaths within the Churchyard are uneven due to tree roots and this may cause a potential trip hazard. The complainant suggested the use of St Andrew's United Reform Church which is very close by. At the time of the complaint, St Andrew's United Reform Church was not in the same Ward, however, due to the boundary changes this Church now falls within the boundary of Forest Hall Ward. St Andrew's United Reform Church is fully accessible, has car parking available and is closer to the public highway than St Bartholomew's Church. It is therefore proposed that St Andrew's United Reform Church is the</p>

		<p>allocated Polling Place for Polling District EB.</p> <p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Forest Hall Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes to the existing arrangements.</p>
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
F Backworth and Holystone Ward	<p>(formerly part Killingworth Ward and part Valley Ward; when the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Backworth & Holystone Ward lies within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining part of Polling District DB which falls into this Ward to be renamed FA • Merge a small part of Polling District DC, Miller Close and The Wheatsheaf, with Polling District DD part and rename Polling District FB • Polling District KB part to be renamed Polling District FC • Polling District KC to be renamed Polling District FD. 	<p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Backworth & Holystone Ward and therefore does not propose any changes to the existing arrangements.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
G – Wallsend North Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Wallsend North Ward lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Borough Constituency)</p> <p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist. The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to merge part of Polling District IC with Polling District GA to align to the new Ward boundary.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to merge Polling Districts GB and GE. For a long period of time, electors, from both Polling Districts, have shared the same Polling Place and will be familiar with the Recreation Room at Elmfield Gardens. The (Acting) Returning Officer has investigated suitable alternatives within the area, however there were no premises available to him.</p> <p>Furthermore, once these Polling Districts are amalgamated, the electorate still falls within the acceptable tolerances set by the Electoral Commission The (Acting) Returning Officer notes that Polling District GD electorate slightly exceeds the recommended electorate for a Polling District. After investigation there was nothing else within the area to hire as a venue, however the polling station electorate will be kept under review and if necessary, an interim review will be conducted to consider changes to the Polling District. In the meantime, the Station will become a double station to mitigate potential high footfall during the Poll.</p>	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Wallsend North Ward and therefore does not recommend any further changes.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
H – Battle Hill Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Battle Hill Ward lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Borough Constituency and Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to incorporate the lower section of the Rising Sun Countryside Park into Polling District HA to align to the Parliamentary Constituency boundary.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to merge Polling Districts HB, HC and HD. Investigations have been undertaken with Tyne Met College and the Jolly Bowman Public House, to no avail, however, Battle Hill Multi Use Centre is available and falls within the centre of the new proposed Polling District, therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes the merge and use of the new Polling Place.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is aware Hadrian Park Primary School would prefer not to be used as a Polling Place due to the impact on the school. Unfortunately, the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any suitable alternative Polling Places in the area and would welcome any suggestions that could be investigated.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to rename Polling District HE to HC and HF to HD.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer finds himself in an unusual position with regard to two properties at the most northern point of the new Ward. He must create a new separate Polling District, HE to account for this as it falls within a different Parliamentary</p>	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Battle Hill Ward and therefore does not propose any further changes.</p>

	<p>Constituency to that of the rest of the Ward. It is proposed that these electors cast their vote at their nearest Polling Place within their Constituency, which is Holystone Out of Hours Club.</p>	
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
I – Wallsend Central Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Wallsend Central Ward lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The Acting Returning Officer proposes Polling Districts IA, IB, IC part, ID and IE to remain unchanged.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer received a request to use Carville Primary School as a Polling Place for Polling District IA. The reason for this request was the current distance electors had to walk to their Polling Place at Wallsend Customer First Centre was too far. The (Acting) Returning Officer has established that the furthest distance an elector (residing in Philiphaugh) would have to walk to their current Polling Place would be 0.7 mile. He believes that this is an acceptable distance to travel therefore, is not minded to amend the Polling Place. In the same request, it was suggested that the rectangular area (along High Street East, down Coach Lane to the Metro line, along Holly Avenue and up Wagon Way) be incorporated into Polling District IC as the Polling Place was closer. Whilst this is correct, the (Acting) Returning Officer explains that moving these streets would increase the Polling Station electorate in Polling District IC by approximately 200, split the Polling District over the busy main road of High Street East and make St Peter's Primary School a much quieter Polling Station. The (Acting) Returning Officer welcomes the comments, however, on this occasion, it is his conclusion that the existing number of Polling</p>	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Wallsend Central Ward and therefore does not propose any further changes.</p>

	<p>Districts is sufficient to serve the electors of this Ward.</p> <p>There is a new section of Wallsend Central Ward at the north east of the Ward, formerly part of Howdon Ward, Polling District JD. This Polling District is served by a temporary porta cabin on St Peter's Road. It is the view of the (Acting) Returning Officer that this type of Polling Station should not be used, however, he has been unable to identify an alternative venue within this Polling District. He therefore, proposes to continue to use the porta cabin for this year and from 2025 utilise the new onsite development at the top of St Peter's Road.</p>	
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
J – Howdon Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Howdon Ward lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend and Tynemouth Borough Constituencies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Checklists for Polling Districts JA and JF highlighted that the room used at the Polling Place was very small and struggled to accommodate two Polling Stations, therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer suggests that the Polling Place for Polling District JF, formerly JE, be relocated to Ferndene, Threap Gardens. This means that it will no longer share a Polling Place with JA, which was small for a double station • Polling Districts JA, JB and JC remain unchanged • Polling Districts FA and FB remain unchanged but renamed to JD and JE • Create a new Polling District JG to address the discrepancy in boundary lines at the very south east of the Ward. This piece of uninhabited land falls within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency therefore must remain separate 	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Howdon Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes to the existing arrangements.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
K- Shiremoor Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Shiremoor Ward lies within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency and the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer does not propose to change to Polling Districts KA and KE (formerly KF) as these all fall within the Electoral Commission guidance that a Polling Station should not have more than 2250 electors allocated to it and the Polling Places are well established and central to the Polling Districts.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer approached St Edmund's Church to see if they were available to be used as a Polling Place for Polling District KB, however, they replied stating that the building was currently closed and were unable to assist. On investigation, there is little provision within the area. A Charity Shop at Northumberland Park had been previously used, however, it was difficult to maintain the secrecy of the ballot as the Shop remained open. The (Acting) Returning Officer therefore proposes to use Backworth Park Primary School.</p> <p>Furthermore, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to redraw the boundary line of Polling District KB and KC along the wagon way at the rear of Richardson Gardens to the Metro Line to the south so that the following streets: Delaval Crescent, Richardson Gardens, Hastings Drive and Trevelyan Close are now incorporated into Polling District KC. This has been proposed as these houses were built on the land since the last Boundary Review and form the same estate to their east. At the same time,</p>	<p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted, therefore, as the (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues, he does not propose any other changes.</p>

	<p>the (Acting) Returning Officers proposes to move Bluebell Court, Hartley Mews and St Marks Court into Polling District KD.</p> <p>Following an internal review of all Polling Places, an issue was identified with Bertram Grange Community Centre whereby disabled access was achieved by portable ramps to the building; this was not ideal for disabled voters. The (Acting) Returning Officer has contacted a number of alternative venues and has been able to identify Shiremoor Library as a suitable alternative. The Library is a fully accessible building and on one of the main roads through Shiremoor. It has good transport links and is a well known community hub due to its shared use with the Pharmacy and Doctor's Surgery. The (Acting) Returning Officer therefore proposes to use the Shiremoor Library as the Polling Place for Polling District KC.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to create a new Polling District, KF; this forms two small pieces of land to the South West of the Ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England have placed these industrial and commercial areas into the Shiremoor Ward but for Parliamentary purposes, they fall within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency and therefore cannot be merged with other Polling Districts within Shiremoor Ward. As there are no electors registered within these areas, the (Acting) Returning Officer has not allocated a Polling Place, however, should this situation change, the (Acting) Returning Officer would use the Council Offices as a temporary Polling Place.</p>	
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
<p>L – Chirton and Percy Main Ward</p>	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Chirton & Percy Main Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>Polling Districts LA, LB and LC to remain the same, with a small sliver of LC moving into North Shields Ward.</p> <p>New Polling District LD comprises of old Polling Districts LE and LF. The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes this merge to remove the use of the Temporary Polling Station on Verne Road. The furthest distance to the proposed Polling Place, Balkwell Community Centre, is 0.7 mile and the electorate of the new Polling District falls within the Electoral Commission guidance that a Polling Station should not have more than 2250 electors allocated to it. Furthermore, the use of temporary porta cabins does not fully meet the current legislation as set out in the Elections Act 2022.</p> <p>The Community at of East Howdon moves into this Ward. Due to the distance from its neighbouring communities, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to maintain this area as an individual Polling District. The Polling District will be renamed to LE.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to create a new Polling District LF. This comprises of FD and part of FE and FF. It is proposed to use St John's Parish Church as the Polling Place as the (Acting) Returning Officer had received comments that Woodlea Tenants Centre was harder to find.</p>	<p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted. Additionally, all electorate figures fall within the Electoral Commission guidance that a Polling Station should not have more than 2250 electors allocated to it.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is therefore, not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Districts or Places in Chirton & Percy Main Ward and therefore does not propose any further changes.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
M – New York and Murton Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, New York & Murton Ward lies within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency and Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer received a suggestion from Councillor Scargill which proposed moving Alston Close, Hexham Close and the corresponding side of Chirton Hill Drive into Polling District MD. This suggestion has merit as these three streets naturally fall into the Estate. As the number of station electors is relatively small, only 72, the (Acting) Returning Officer is minded to approve this proposal. He is aware that number of station electors in Polling District MD is high and will increase due to the number of properties being built at the bottom of Rake Lane, however he feels the advantages over the location outweigh this.</p> <p>The introduction of the Elections Act 2022 placed a duty on Returning Officers to make it easier for disabled people to vote, in particular a Returning Officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure a disabled voter can vote independently and in secret at the Polling Station. The Temporary Polling Station at Norham Road North is sited on a grassed verge making it difficult for all voters to access and almost impossible for wheelchair users, therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to move their Polling Place to Phoenix Rise.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer acknowledges that electors of Murton Village must make their way to New York Village, along an unlit road</p>	<p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in New York & Murton Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes to those set out.</p>

	<p>with no pavements, to cast their vote. He proposes that the Robin Hood Public House is now used as their Polling Place. To stop the same issue of access for those residents of New York Village and to address the use of a Temporary Polling Place at Greenlea, the (Acting) Returning Officer suggests that these station voters merge into MB and now use the Polling Place at Phoenix Rise. Whilst the current station electorate is low for Polling District MC, there is housing development underway which will inevitably increase elector numbers in the future.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer recognises that the station electorate for Polling District MD is nearing the acceptable levels recommended by the Electoral Commission, he does not feel changes are warranted at this time. This will of course be monitored and adjusted, if necessary. To mitigate capacity, this Polling Place will continue to operate as a double station.</p> <p>There is a small section of land at the very north of the Ward which was formerly part of Valley Ward. As this is within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency a separate Polling District must be created; this has been named ME. The (Acting) Returning Officer will identify a Polling Place for this Polling District should houses be built on this land.</p>	
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
<p>N – Preston with Preston Grange Ward</p>	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Preston with Preston Grange Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to change the layout of the Polling Districts within Preston with Preston Grange Ward.</p> <p>One of the driving factors for this change is the introduction of the Elections Act 2022. This Act placed a duty on Returning Officers to make it easier for disabled people to vote. In particular, the Returning Officer must take all necessary steps to ensure that an elector votes independently and in secret at the Polling Station. The use of a temporary porta cabin at Regency Gardens makes it extremely difficult for anyone with mobility problems to access and the (Acting) Returning Officer wishes to significantly reduce the number used. The (Acting) Returning Officer had approached Tyne Met College, Primrose Lodge Care Home, the Snooker Club and the Alexandra Public House to see if they could accommodate a Polling Place in this area but unfortunately none were able to support our request.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer therefore proposes to realign the Polling District boundaries so that they better serve the area, taking into consideration natural dividers within the Ward, station electorate figures and distance to the Polling Place from the furthest street in the area. He will realign the Polling District boundaries so that NA and NB extend north up to Queen Alexandra Road, incorporating part of Polling District NC. The (Acting) Returning Officer also proposes to extend the southern boundary of Polling District ND to Queen</p>	<p>The Polling Places which currently serve Preston with Preston Grange Ward have all been reviewed and fully meet the checklist provided by the Electoral Commission. The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of the any other issues or concerns in this Ward, therefore, he does not propose any other changes than those listed.</p>

	<p>Alexandra Road, thus removing Polling District NC in its entirety. Current Polling District ND will be renamed NC and the Polling District to the very north of the Ward, will be renamed ND.</p>	
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
<p>O – Tynemouth Ward</p>	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Tynemouth Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to make some changes in for this ward, having considered all available information and also a separate specific representation made by Cllr Lewis Bartoli.</p> <p>Councillor Bartoli proposed to move the Polling Place for Polling District OE to Holy Saviour Church and amend the boundary line between Polling Districts OC and OE. While the move of Polling Place was only a short distance from the current Polling Place of the Scout Hut on Manor Road, it would enable the (Acting) Returning Officer to fix the unusual boundary that splits Queensway, Manor Road and Shipley Terrace. It is therefore, proposed that the new boundary would run straight along King Edwards Road and continue down Percy Park. Councillor Bartoli felt this would unify communities to vote in one location. The (Acting) Returning Officer has agreed to this proposal as it levels out the number of station voters for Polling Districts OC, OD and OE. Additionally, the proposed Polling Place of Holy Saviour Church is available for use, the cost of hire is comparable and after inspection it meets all requirements set out in the Electoral Commission Polling Station Checklist.</p> <p>In addition for this ward, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes:</p>	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer notes that previously Polling Districts OD and OE have used the same Polling Place, the Guide and Scout Hut on Manor Road. Electorate turnout at this station has previously been higher than the average which means the Polling Place is busy. See comments in the first column about the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals to instead use Holy Saviour church as an alternative polling station.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer also considered other locations which might be used as a polling place in this ward (such as Kings Priory School and Our Lady and St Oswin's Church). Kings Priory School were unable to accommodate therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer has opted to use the Church on Front Street, Tynemouth. He acknowledges that parking is limited so, if necessary, he will take steps to make</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rename Polling District PA, formerly of Cullercoats Ward, OA • To amalgamate the areas of Preston Ward which have moved into Tynemouth Ward with the most eastern part of OB and rename OB • The (Acting) Returning Officer approached King Edwards Primary School with a view to using part of the School as a Polling Place for OB. For this to work, School staff would have to escort polling staff around their building therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer has identified and decided to use the Linskill Centre as a Polling Place as it is a well established public venue on the main road within the Polling District • To incorporate into OC, the small area of land to its north west border containing, Hazeldene Court, St Aidan’s Court and part of Northumberland Park • The remainder of Polling Districts OD, OE and OF to remain the same geographically. 	<p>a proportion of the public parking on Front Street available to voters.</p> <p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Tynemouth Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes than those listed.</p>
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
P – Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • merge the parts of former Polling Districts QC and RA together, rename PA and use Marden Bridge Sports Centre as the Polling Place • To keep Polling Districts PB, PC and PD in their current form • To create a new Polling District PE from the area of land to the very north east of the Ward, formerly Polling District RD. 	<p>All Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
<p>Q – North Shields Ward</p>	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, North Shields Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a new Polling District QA from part of former Polling District FF • Create a new Polling District QC from part of former Polling District FG • Create a new Polling District QD from part of former Polling District LD and a sliver of LC. 	<p>In April 2023, a complaint was received from a motorised wheelchair user that she could not access her polling station on Upper Elsdon Street due to it being a temporary porta cabin. The introduction of the Elections Act 2022 placed a duty on Returning Officers to make it easier for disabled people to vote, in particular a Returning Officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure a disabled voter can vote independently and in secret at the polling station. The (Acting) Returning Officer had considered the use of The Parks Sports Centre as an alternative Polling Place, however, he is acutely aware that the Temporary Polling Station on Upper Elsdon Street is far more centrally located within the Polling District. The (Acting) Returning Officer examined the turnout figures over the last three years and although</p>

		<p>minimal, there is a slight increase in elector turnout at the Temporary Polling Station. Planned housing development at the Smiths Dock site will also increase the elector numbers likely at this location. Therefore the (Acting) Returning Officer has taken the decision for this polling station to remain in place.</p>
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Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
R – Whitley Bay North Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Whitley Bay North Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The creation of the Whitley Bay North Ward takes on board areas from the former Whitley Bay and Monkseaton North Wards. The Polling Districts remain relatively unchanged.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to incorporate the land holding Valley Gardens Middle School and Whitley Bay High School into the area to their south and rename this Polling District RA. This Polling District currently utilises a temporary porta cabin placed between both Schools. The (Acting) Returning Officer wishes to reduce the number of temporary stations used and has approached both Schools with a view to using a room within their buildings. Unfortunately both Valley Gardens Middle School and Whitley Bay High School were unable to accommodate, therefore, for the time being, the (Acting) Returning Officer will continue to use the temporary porta cabin placed between the Schools. He would however, welcome any suggestions for an alternative Polling Place for Polling District RA.</p> <p>He also proposes that former Polling District SD is renamed RD, no change is made to Polling District RB and that the small section to the east of the Ward is moved into Polling District RC.</p>	<p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Whitley Bay North Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
<p>S – Monkseaton Ward</p>	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, Monkseaton Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to create Polling District SA by merging former Polling Districts QA and QE. For a long time, these former Polling Districts have shared a Polling Place due to the limited availability of a venue in former Polling District QA. Merging these formally will address this issue and the station electorate still falls well within Electoral Commission guidance. In addition, the western boundary of SA will be reduced to run straight along the rear of Briar Vale and Langley Playing fields. The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to create a new Polling District SB, using Appletree Gardens First Schools as the Polling Place. The boundary of this new Polling District will run down the eastern side of the Ward to Foxhunters roundabout, along Seatonville Road to its junction with Bromley Avenue, down Bromley Avenue to where it meets Cauldwell Lane, along Cauldwell Lane and Front Street to the Metro line. This adjustment has been made to account for a more equal electorate and to incorporate former Polling District SC which, due to Local Government Boundary Commission for England changes, moved their current Polling Place to outside the Ward. The (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to merge the Bromley Avenue triangle (Bromley Avenue/Seatonville Road/Cauldwell Lane) into Polling District SC.</p>	<p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in Monkseaton Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes.</p>

Ward	Returning Officer's Proposals / Rationale	Additional Comments
T - St Mary's Ward	<p>(When the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries come into force, St Mary's Ward lies within the Tynemouth Borough Constituency and the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency)</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer does not propose any geographical changes to the Polling Districts within St Mary's Ward.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer acknowledges that there are very few public buildings within this Ward that could be used as a Polling Place. He has particular concern over the use of temporary porta cabins, this is because the introduction of the Elections Act 2022 placed a duty on Returning Officers to make it easier for disabled people to vote, in particular a Returning Officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure a disabled voter can vote independently and in secret at the polling station. However, he is also acutely aware that, in exceptional circumstances, the use of a temporary porta cabin cannot be avoided.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer has identified an alternative venue for the temporary porta cabin on Westley Drive and proposes to use Cemetery Lodge at Whitley Bay Cemetery as a Polling Place. The (Acting) Returning Officer assures the public that the use of the Lodge would not interfere with services taking place.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer has approached both Wellfield Middle School and South Wellfield First School with a view to using a room within one of the Schools as a Polling Place. Wellfield Middle School can accommodate a Polling Place within the</p>	<p>All static Polling Places have been reviewed following the Electoral Commission Evaluation Checklist and no serious issues have been highlighted.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer is not aware of any other issues or concerns with the Polling Places in St Mary's Ward and therefore does not propose any other changes. Finally, the (Acting) Returning Officer received a submission from a Political Party which raised three topics relevant to the Polling District and Polling Place Review, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Schools and Nurseries • Out of Polling District Polling Places • Addressing Boundary Conflicts <p><u>Use of Schools and Nurseries</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised about the closure of schools and nurseries on Polling Day. The (Acting) Returning</p>

	<p>School, therefore, the (Acting) Returning Officer proposes to replace the temporary porta cabin in Polling District TD for the School Hall.</p> <p>Despite making contact with three local businesses in Polling District TF, formerly SB, the (Acting) Returning Officer has been unable to identify a suitable alternative venue for the porta cabin, therefore, it is proposed for the cabin on Rosemount Way to be retained.</p> <p>Whilst the station electorate is very low for TD, due to the geographical nature of Earsdon, the (Acting) Returning Officer acknowledges that this area should remain an individual Polling District.</p> <p>The (Acting) Returning Officer must create a new Polling District TG to address the discrepancy in boundary lines at the very south west of the Ward. This piece of uninhabited land falls within the Cramlington and Killingworth County Constituency therefore must remain separate.</p>	<p>Officer acknowledges that some nurseries may be asked to close on Polling Day and Schools may allocate one of their annual training days but he can confirm that no child will lose a day of statutory education because of the School being used as a Polling Place.</p> <p><u>Out of Polling District Polling Places</u> The (Acting) Returning Officer takes all steps necessary to identify Polling Places within the Polling Districts but sometimes this is not possible. Regarding Polling District GE, which had been specifically mentioned by the Political Party, the (Acting) Returning Officer can confirm that action has been taken to address this issue within this Review.</p> <p><u>Addressing Boundary Conflicts</u> The (Acting) Returning Officer is aware of the conflict which has been created by the separate independent and simultaneous Boundary Reviews by the Boundary</p>
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		Commission for England and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and can confirm that he has created Polling Districts to take these very complex sets of proposals into account.
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