Electoral review of Newcastle

Our council: Fit for the future

Newcastle City Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on ward boundaries for Newcastle

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL CONSULTATION





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Background: Electoral review of Newcastle

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) is undertaking an electoral review of Newcastle between January 2016 and September 2016.

An electoral review examines a council's electoral arrangements and aims to ensure, as far as possible, that the ratio of electors to councillors in each ward is the same. The review will cover:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council (council size);
- The number and boundaries of electoral areas (wards) for the purposes of the election of councillors;
- The number of councillors for any electoral area of a local authority; and
- The name of any electoral area.

The review began on 26 January 2016 when the Commission opened consultation on the future pattern of wards in Newcastle. They have recommended that Newcastle should continue to have a council size of 78 councillors.

By law, the Commission must ensure that they produce a new pattern of wards that delivers electoral equality for local voters, reflects the interests and identities of local communities and promotes effective and convenient local government.

As Newcastle elects councillors by thirds the Commission will seek to achieve a pattern of three-member wards. This means we will continue to have 26 wards across the city, each represented by three councillors. Even though the number of councillors will stay the same we know that the shape and size of council wards has to change because of housing developments and changes to the city's population. We have forecast that the electorate will grow by around 30,000 by 2021.

Consultation ends on 4 April 2016. The Commission will then consider all responses they receive and develop their draft recommendations. These recommendations will then be published for a further period of consultation.

The timetable for our review is:

- 26 January to 4 April 2016 The Commission invite proposals for the future pattern of wards in the city
- 7 June 2016 to 2 August 2016 The Commission publish their draft recommendations for the future pattern of wards in the city and invite feedback
- 8 November 2016 The Commission publish their final recommendations
- November / December 2016 The Commission lays an Order before both Houses of Parliament to implement their final recommendations
- May 2018 Final recommendations are implemented through whole-council elections

We have developed these draft proposals using the Commission's guidance and publish them now to seek the views of councillors, residents and other stakeholders to ensure they are robust before we submit them to the Commission on behalf of the council. You can have your say on these proposals:

- Online: https://letstalknewcastle.co.uk/
- Face to face: Drop in sessions at the City Library, Spital Tongues Community Centre, Newburn Library, Gosforth High Street and Kingston Park Community Centre and a venue on Gosforth High Street.

Section One: Introduction

1.1 Warding pattern consultation

Before the Commission develop their detailed proposals for the ward boundaries, they are keen to hear from anyone who has a view on what the future warding pattern for the city should be. Their consultation period runs from 26 January to 4 April 2016.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of wards is available in their guidance document: Electoral reviews: technical guidance which can be found at http://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance.

They also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called How to propose a pattern of wards which is available at http://www.lgbce.org.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-

1.2 Purpose of this document

08-04.pdf.

This document and accompanying maps set out an initial draft proposal on behalf of Newcastle City Council. It has been developed this draft proposal following the guidance provided by the Commission.

We believe that the ward boundaries outlined in this draft proposal could provide an effective pattern for the city because they:

- Reflect the council size of 78 as recommended by the Commission;
- Achieve electorate equality as far as possible in 2021 this proposal includes no wards more that 10% above or below the average electorate in the city; and
- Have been developed using our extensive knowledge of the city, including its infrastructure, key facilities and focal points and communities of interest.

We will consult on this draft proposal with councillors, residents and other stakeholders between 4 February and 29 February 2016. We expect to make amendments to the proposals following this consultation, including refining the precision on where the boundaries are drawn, for example, avoiding cutting through private gardens. We will publish an updated version in March before submitting it to the Commission in April.

Local consultation will take place through drop in sessions across the city through drop-in sessions at the City Library, Spital Tongues Community Centre, Newburn Library, Kingston Park Community Centre and a venue on Gosforth high Street. Specific sessions will also be held with councillors to seek their views. The draft proposals are also published on Let's talk Newcastle and people can give their views by completing a short survey.

We will log all feedback received but will not produce a new proposal every time we receive a comment. We recognise that there is no perfect pattern for wards and we may have missed important considerations. We will review all feedback after the local consultation has ended and reach a balanced view about what to reflect in the proposal we then submit to the Commission.

Even though we have developed this proposal and will be carrying out local consultation, we still encourage everyone to give their own proposals to the Commission as well.

Section Two: Developing the pattern of wards for Newcastle

2.1 Initial considerations and principles

The current ward pattern in Newcastle was established in 2004 following a previous review. Although the Commission has recommended that the number of councillors continues to be 78 we know from our electorate forecast that the shape and size of council wards has to change.

In developing these draft proposals we have applied some initial considerations and guiding principles:

- Ensure electoral equality as far as possible by each three-councillor ward having 8,340 electors by 2021 and working within the variances accepted by the Commission;
- Use the forecast electorate to ensure the proposal is sustainable;
- Use our knowledge about communities as 'building blocks' to avoid, where possible, placing a boundary through an identified community;
- Consider current Parish Council boundaries to minimise potential changes to electoral arrangements within parishes;
- Use key infrastructure which provides recognisable boundaries, for example, the A1.

2.2 Current and forecast electorate

An electoral review must, so far as it practicable, deliver electoral equality where all councillors in a local authority area represent a similar number of electors.

The Commission also take in to consideration any developments that might affect the number of electors in an area within five years of the end of the review, for Newcastle this is up to 2021. We have provided the Commission with data about our current electorate and how we forecast this to change by 2021. The Commission will use this data as the baseline for their recommendations and publish it so everyone who wishes to give a view on ward boundaries has the same information.

We have used the latest data available at the start of our review – the electoral register published in December 2015. We worked closely with the Commission to develop our forecast, using their guidance but also looking in-depth at the impact of Individual Elector Registration (IER).

Our forecast reflects:

- Projections for overall population growth in the 17+ population;
- Plans for new homes, on both green and brown fields sites in the next five years;
- Long-term trends affecting housing composition, which mean that areas where new housing is not being built are likely to experience a small decline in population;
- Developments in student housing which cater for a degree of growth in the overall student population and re-allocate existing students into larger scale student accommodation blocks; and
- The impact of IER which has reduced the number of electors significantly in some wards, and subsequent active measures to increase registration, particularly among students where we are hoping to achieve a 50% registration rate.

In December 2015 there were 183,852 people registered to vote in local elections in Newcastle, representing a registration rate of 79%. We expect the electorate to rise to 216,835 by 2021, representing a registration rate of 90% as a result of overall population growth, plans for new homes and student accommodation and active measures to increase registration.

The electorate forecast based on the current pattern of wards for Newcastle are:

Ward	2015	Variance from	2021	Variance from
	electorate	average	electorate	average
Benwell and Scotswood	8,308	17%	9,516	14%
Blakelaw	7,809	10%	8,790	5%
Byker	7,427	5%	8,299	0%
Castle	8,670	23%	10,796	29%
Dene	7,157	1%	7,376	-12%
Denton	7,377	4%	7,727	-7%
East Gosforth	6,959	-2%	7,477	-10%
Elswick	6,802	-4%	8,164	-2%
Fawdon	7,146	1%	7,614	-9%
Fenham	7,600	7%	8,234	-1%
Kenton	7,667	8%	8,089	-3%
Lemington	7,076	0%	7,346	-12%
Newburn	6,930	-2%	7,766	-7%
North Heaton	6,812	-4%	7,291	-13%
North Jesmond	6,057	-14%	8,767	5%
Ouseburn	6,555	-7%	11,113	33%
Parklands	7,627	8%	7,773	-7%
South Heaton	5,778	-18%	7,289	-13%
South Jesmond	5,721	-19%	8,360	0%
Walker	7,506	6%	8,342	0%
Walkergate	6,858	-3%	7,295	-13%
West Gosforth	7,220	2%	7,463	-11%
Westerhope	7,453	5%	7,629	-9%
Westgate	5,370	-24%	10,236	23%
Wingrove	6,373	-10%	8,497	2%
Woolsington	7,594	7%	9,581	15%
Total	183,852		216,833	
Average	7,071		8,340	

This shows that before 2021, the current warding pattern will not provide electoral equality. So even though the number of councillors will remain the same at 78, the pattern of wards across the city will need to change significantly.

2.3 Delivering electoral equality

The first step to developing a ward pattern is to calculate the optimum number of electors to be represented by each councillor; the councillor: elector ratio. For a council size of 78 councillors, the councillor: to elector ratio based on the current electorate in Newcastle is 2,357. This is expected to rise to 2,780 by 2021.

The Commission will base their recommendations on our forecast electorate; therefore each ward needs to roughly contain 8,340 electors. They recognise that perfect equality is unlikely for all wards and therefore accept justified variances with:

- No more than 30% of the wards having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the city; and / or
- No more than one ward with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%.

2.4 Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities

In developing our draft proposal we have reflected, as far as possible, the interests and identities of Newcastle's communities. This includes transport links, community groups, facilities, identifiable boundaries, parishes and shared interests.

We gathered intelligence about community identity internally. Officers were asked to outline the geography of these communities on large scale maps and provide the reasoning for this, for example, being a defined neighbourhood or centring around a specific facility or district centre, and how these communities may have affiliations with each other. This provides the building blocks upon which to develop the new warding pattern

The community mapping was quality assured by officers in other teams who have regular contact with communities or work on schemes across the city, for example, housing, planning and leisure. It was then shared with councillors who were asked to also provide any further intelligence about where they thought identifiable communities are. This map is provided at Appendix A for information.

We have estimated the current and forecast electorate within each of the communities identified which have then become the 'building blocks' for this draft proposal.

We have also considered the boundaries provided through a number of geographical features, in particular the A1, Tyne and Wear Metro, East Cost Mainline and other key road, for example. We have also considered the boundaries of the six Parish Councils at Blakelaw and North Fenham, Brunswick, Dinnington, Hazlerigg, North Gostforth and Woolsington.

Using this we have been able to chunk up the city and calculate how many wards can be created in each based on the forecast electorate:

- West of the city: The A1 which runs from the south to the north of the city provides a strong boundary between the west and the east of the city. To achieve electoral equality, there needs to be six wards to the west of the A1.
- Outer east of the city: Using the clear boundaries of the River Tyne to the south and east, East
 Coast mainline to the north east and the boundary with North Tyneside to the north, it is
 possible to create three wards in this part of the city.
- Inner east of the city: Using the city boundary with North Tyneside, Metro and East Coast Mainline to the south, Great North Road to the west it is possible to create six wards.
- Central north of the city: Using the A1 to the west, city boundary with North Tyneside to the north, Stamdfordham Road to the south and Great North Road until it meets Gosforth, it is possible to create five wards.
- Central south of the city: Using the A1 to the west, Stamfordam Road to the north, the central motorway to the east and the River Tyne to the south it is possible to create six wards.

Section Three: Draft warding pattern proposal

3.1 Summary of proposals

Applying our approach has resulted in the warding pattern for the city outlined in the map below. Larger maps attached at Appendix B, C and D outline the current pattern of wards, the draft proposed pattern and the two patterns together so stakeholders can more easily compare them.

We believe this draft proposal provides an effective pattern for the city because it:

- Reflects the council size of 78 as recommended by the Commission;
- Achieves electorate equality as far as possible in 2021 this proposal includes no wards more that 10% above or below the average electorate in the city; and
- Has been developed using our extensive knowledge of the city, including its infrastructure, key facilities and focal points and communities of interest.

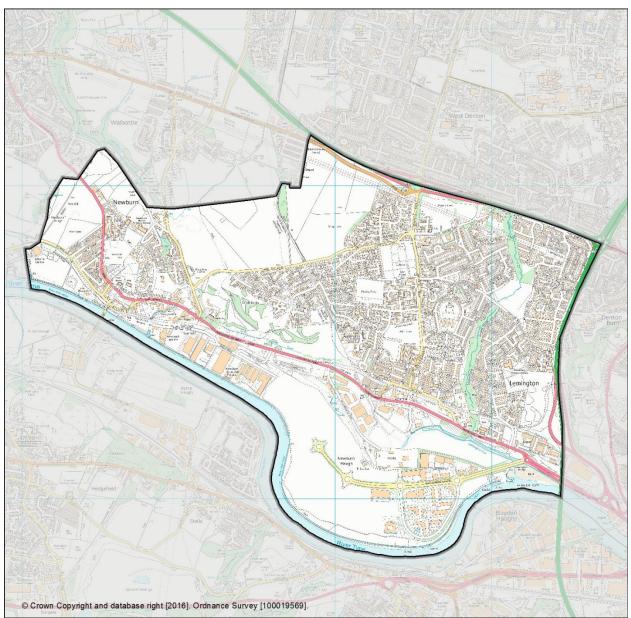
Forecast electorate data for the draft proposed wards is outlined in the table below. The wards are numbered on the maps but we have also provided a summary description of each for ease of reference. We are asking people for their views on the names of wards as part of our consultation.

Ward	Summary of areas covered within	2021 forecast	Variance from
no.	the wards	electorate	average
1	Lemington and Newburn	8,524	2%
2	Denton and Chapel House	8,056	-3%
3	Westerhope village and Chapel Park	7,981	-4%
4	Newbiggin Hall and Callerton	8,275	-1%
5	Kingston Park and Great Park	9,103	9%
6	Outer west villages	8,888	7%
7	Walkergate	8,872	6%
8	Walker	8,989	8%
9	Byker and Ouseburn	8,326	0%
10	Heaton	8,778	5%
11	High Heaton	7,899	-5%
12	South Gosforth and Dene	7,729	-5%
13	Jesmond north	8,248	-1%
14	Jesmond south	8,405	-1%
15	Shieldfield and Heaton west	8,999	8%
16	Parklands	7,905	-5%
17	Fawdon and Kenton Bar	8,395	1%
18	Gosforth north	8,097	-3%
19	Gosforth west, Kenton and Town Moor	7,697	-8%
20	Blakelaw and Cowgate	7,763	-7%
21	Benwell and Scotswood	8,827	6%
22	Elswick	8,974	8%
23	City centre	8,212	-1
24	Fenham west	7,703	-8%
25	Fenham east	7,722	-7%
26	Arthur's Hill and Leazes	8,063	-3%

The remainder of this document outlines each of the proposed wards in more detail, providing a map of each proposed ward, a description of the boundary and a brief description of the main characteristics.

3.2 Proposed Ward 1 including Lemington and Newburn

2021 electorate and variance: 8,510 (2%)

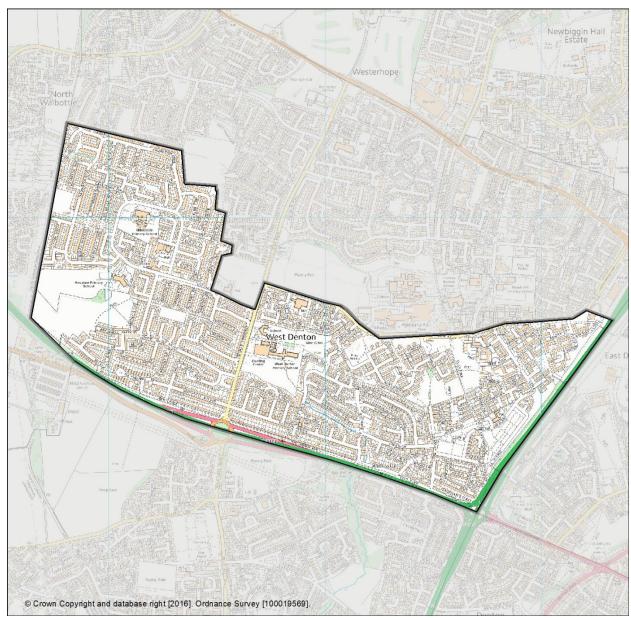


The proposal is to bring together the Lemington and Newburn communities into a single ward with the strong boundaries of the A69 to the north, A1 to the east and River Tyne to the south. To achieve electoral equality we have extended the boundary to the west around Newburn. From the River Tyne the boundary heads north up Grange Road and continues northwards following Newburn Grange and making its way across open space to reach Mayfield Avenue. The boundary turns east crossing Walbottle Road, following the footbath across open space until it reaches North Warbottle Wagonway. From here it heads north to join the A69, excluding the residential properties in Blucher, which are included in proposed Ward 6.

The resulting proposed ward keeps together the communities of Dumpling Hall, Bells Close, Lemington Central, Lemington Rise, Valley View, Lemington Village and south west Denton. Central within the ward is the Lemington Centre which provides a range of health services, community café and leisure activities. Newburn is a short distance away from these communities and is connected by Lemington Road and the old coal rail line. Newburn contains a library, customer service centre and leisure centre which are used by residents from across the city, not just the local residents.

3.3 Proposed Ward 2 including Denton and Chapel House

2021 electorate and variance: 8,056 (-3%)

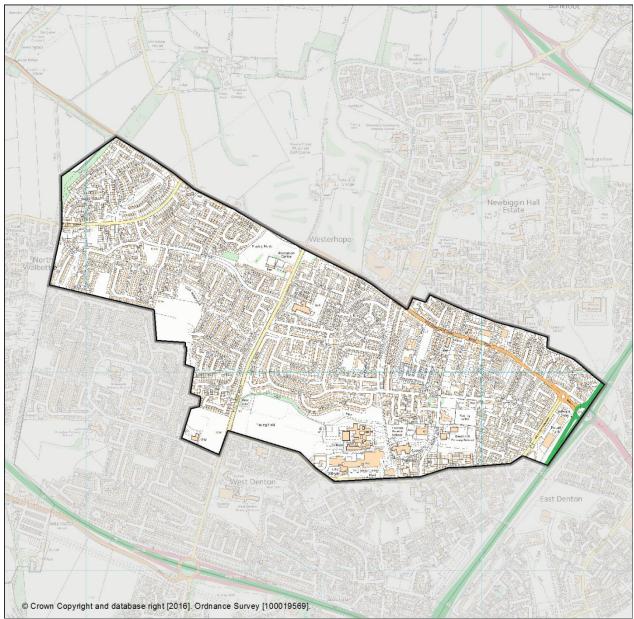


There are strong boundaries to the east (A1 motorway) and south (A69) of the proposed ward. From the A69 the west boundary heads northwards up the North Warbottle Wagonway. The boundary then turns east and runs between the Chapel House (included) and Chapel Park (not included) estates. From the Wagonway the boundary runs to the rear of the properties on Chadderton Drive, to the rear of Eddrington Grove, Egham Road and Eden Close (all properties are included in the proposed ward) until Hillhead Parkway, where the boundary continues east until it meets Hillhead Road. It then heads north briefly and then east along West Denton Way, finally joining A1 motorway after including the Hill Top House residential flats.

This proposed ward brings together communities of West Denton and Chapel House where there is similar 1960's and 1970's owner-occupied housing where predominately families live. There is a small district centre with shops and a health centre. The communities of Denton use the shopping, leisure and health facilities at West Denton Shopping Centre on West Denton Way in the proposed Ward 3 (Westerhope village and Chapel Park). The proposed ward has three schools and a well-used community centre central within the ward. Although there are no Metro stations in this ward, there is high car ownership and access to main roads and bus connections.

3.4 Proposed Ward 3 including Westerhope village and Chapel Park

2021 electorate and variance: 7,981 (-4%)



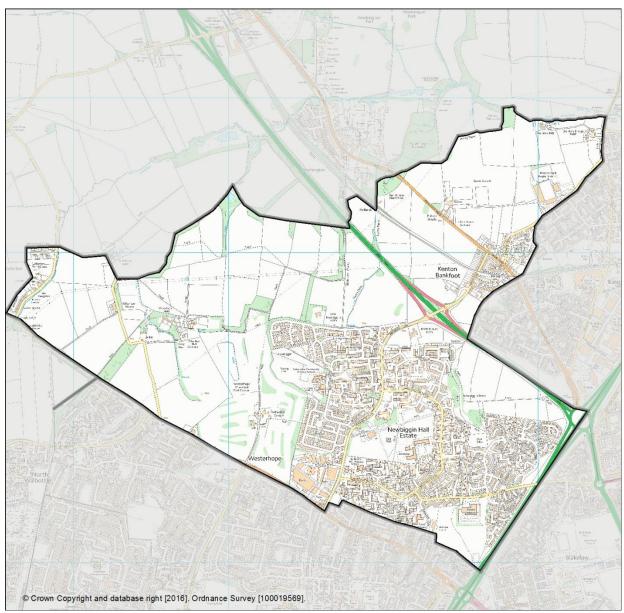
Starting from the north-west corner, the proposed boundary heads south-east down Stamfordham Road until it reaches the roundabout with Beaumont Terrace and Newbiggin Lane. At this point the residential properties on either side of the road are seen as one community, Westerhope Village. The boundary therefore runs behind the residential properties to the north of Stamfordham Road, including Pilton Road, Chatsworth Gardens, Denton Grove, Briarside, Windsor Crescent, Garthfield Crescent and Wellfield Lane. The area to the north of these properties is included in the proposed Ward 4 (Newbiggin Hall and Callerton).

The boundary then runs south-west down the A1, including the retail park after which it heads west along West Denton Way and then south briefly on Hillhead Road then west along Hillhead Parkway where it turns north to exclude the residential properties on Eden Close. The boundary then runs between Chapel House (not included) and Chapel Park (included) estates. The boundary runs west between Chadderton Drive (not included) and Kenmoor Way (included) and includes properties on Lobelia Close and cuts through Lady Bank to reach the North Warbottle Wagonway. Here the boundary head north and follows the footpath around the back of properties on Mandarin Close to complete the boundary with Stamfordham Road.

This proposed ward is predominately housing estate including social housing in West Denton owner-occupied mixed styles of homes in Westerhope village Chapel Park. Westerhope village was previously split between two wards; this proposal unifies the village within one reflecting the community involvement in this area. There are a range of services within the ward which are well used by residents including the Westerhope Shopping Centre with two supermarkets and various independent traders, West Denton Shopping Centre and a small retail park. There are two primary schools and the Westerhope Institute community centre. Being close to the A1 and A69, this proposed ward has very good transport links, particularly access to the city centre and airport.

3.5 Proposed Ward 4 including Newbiggin Hall and Callerton

2021 electorate and variance: 8,275 (-1)

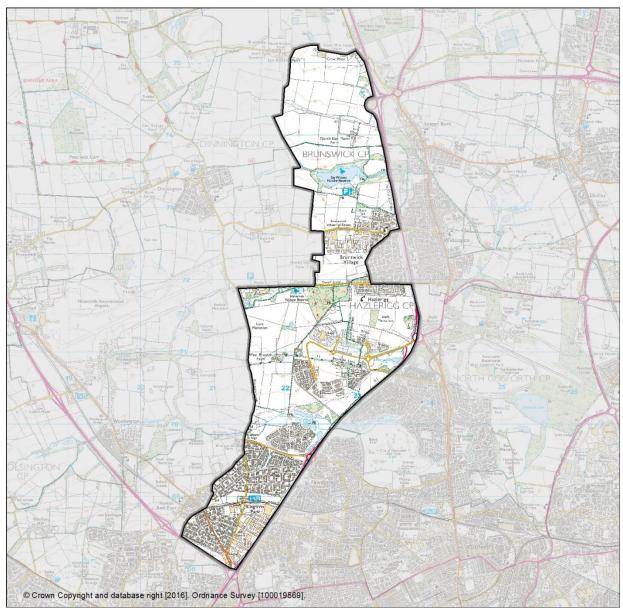


The proposed boundary uses the A1 motorway to the east. The south boundary runs westward from the A1 along the edge of the playing fields, excluding the residential properties which are part of Westerhope Village, e.g. Wellfield Lane, Briarside and Pilton Road, until it connects with Newbiggin Lane. It then continues west on Stamfordham Road until it reaches Callerton, where it turns north and around Callerton village (included). From here the boundary runs north-east using the paths and Harey Dene and Ouseburn, crossing Woolsington Bypass (A696) until it meets Brunton Lane. The boundary turns south on Brunton Lane and on to Brunton Road (excluding Kingston Park) until it reaches Kenton Bankfoot. It runs to the rear of the residential properties on Kenton Bankfoot (included), running between Gatwick Court and Pinewood Close, until it meets the Woolsington Bypass (A696), where it turns east to complete the boundary with the A1.

This proposed ward is predominately the Newbiggin Hall estate where many residents rent their property. It also includes the planned new build to the east and west of Callerton to achieve electoral equality. There is a small district centre here but residents tend to use the good transport links to the shops at Stamfordham Road or shops and other facilities at Kingston Park in the proposed Ward 3 (Westerhope village and Chapel Park). Simonside Community Centre provides social activities and there are four primary schools and a childrens' centre at the Galafield.

3.6 Proposed Ward 5 including Kingston Park and Great Park

2021 electorate and variance: 9,103 (9%)

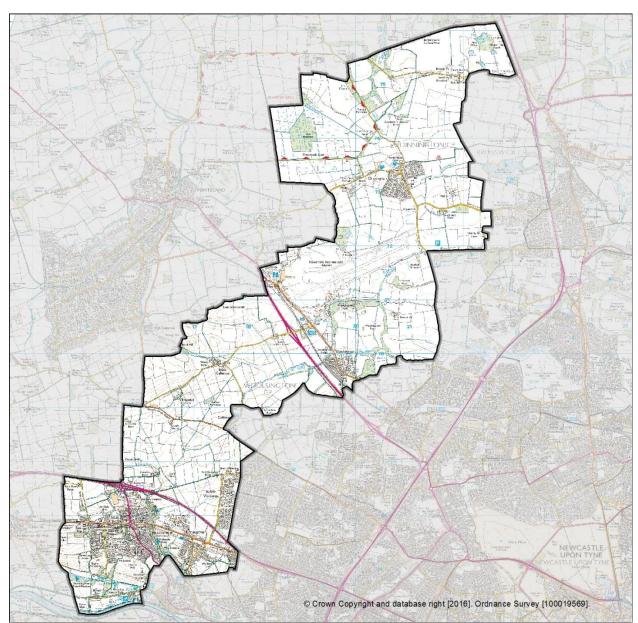


The A1 motorway is a strong boundary running the length of the eastern side of the proposed ward. From the south east corner the boundary runs north-west up the Woolsington Bypass (A969) and heads northwards between Kenton Bankfoot (not included) and Kingston Park (included) estates. It then uses Newbiggin Dene and runs west of the residential properties on Thornbury Close, Linacre Close and Wilmington Close. Here the boundary crosses Main Road / Ponteland Road and runs to the west of Kingston Park Primary School (included) to Brunton Road between Gatwick Court (included) and Pinewood Close (not included). It continues north-east up Brunton Road and north on Brunton Lane until it meets Coach Lane. Finally, it turns east along Coach Lane and then turns north, using the boundary between the parishes of Dinnington and Brunswick until it completes the boundary with the A1 motorway.

This proposed ward brings together the relatively new communities of Kingston Park, built in the 1980's and Newcastle Great Park where homes started to be built in the early 2000's and significant development continues. Homes here tend to be owner-occupied with increasing private rent. There are excellent transport links to the A1, airport and city centre and a large district centre with a range of shopping and leisure facilities and a Metro station.

3.7 Proposed Ward 6 including the outer west villages

2021 electorate and variance: 8,888 (7%)



The proposed ward is bounded by the city boundary with Northumberland to the west and north. From the northeast corner, the eastern boundary runs south down the Old great North Road, then continues south using the boundary between the parishes of Dinnington and Brunswick until it meets Coach Lane, where it turns west and then south down Brunton Lane. At Brunton Bridge, it turns west along the Ouseburn and south west on Harey Dene, crossing Ponteland Road (B6918) and Woolsington Bypass. The boundary then uses the footpaths across open spaces until it meet Whorlton Lane which it run north and west along. From here it continues west behind the residential properties in Callerton (not included). It turns east on Stamfordham Road and on meeting with the residential properties on the south of the road, turns south west on the footpath behind the back of properties on Mandarin Close, crossing Whorlton Terrace and heading south on the North Warbottle Wagonway until meeting the A69.

In this part of the city, the A69 is no longer as key boundary line as the area becomes more rural in character. The boundary heads east briefly on the A69, then turns south to include Blucher village and west along the footpath through open space until meeting Walbottle Road. It then runs north on the road adjacent to the New Burn and then south on the footpath until reaching Grange

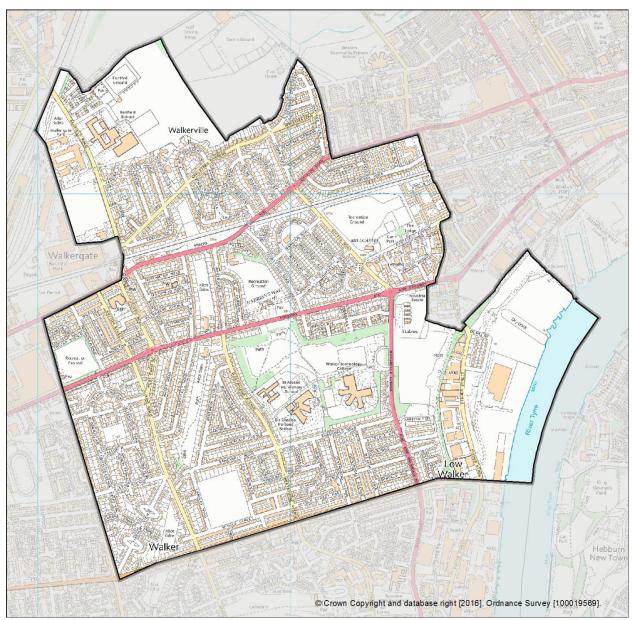
Road, therefore the ward does not include Newburn. The boundary then heads south on the footpath to meet with the River Tyne, excluding the Newburn Activity Centre, then follows the River Tyne east until it meets the A1 motorway, completing the boundary.

This proposed ward brings together the distinct villages to the outer west of the city and the larger urban area of Throckley. This includes Dinnington village, Woolsington Village, Callerton village, Black Callerton, North Walbottle, Walbottle village, Throckley and Blucher. There are wide open spaces and rural areas where there a number of farms scattered throughout.

There is a good range of shops and services available in Throckley including primary schools, two community centres and a large medical centre as well as access to the A69. Transport links to Throckley and the rest of the city from the villages in the rest of this proposed ward is limited. Dinnington has a broad range of facilities including a community-run library, schools, shops and a Parish Council, Callerton has a public house and a resident's association. Walbottle has a public house, community centre, primary school and leisure centre. Woolsington at the north of the ward also has a Parish Council as well as a range of independent shops and cafes. Black Callerton comprises of a number of farms.

3.8 Proposed Ward 7 including Walkergate

2021 electorate and variance: 8,872 (6%)

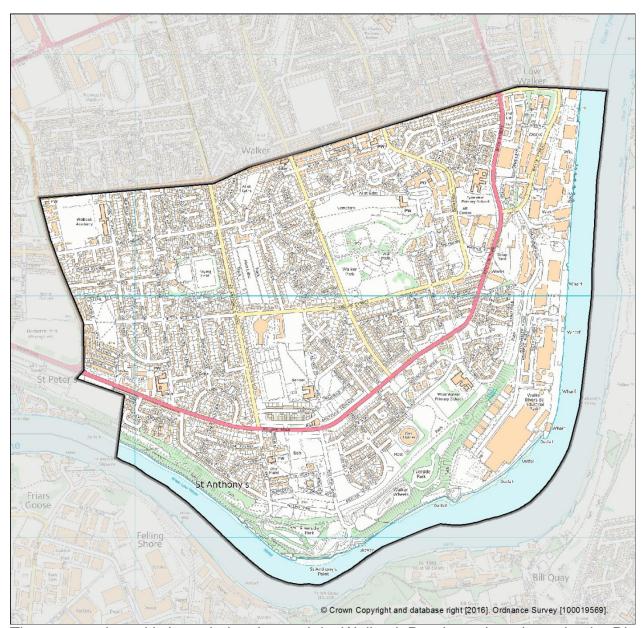


The proposed new ward is bounded by the city boundary with North Tyneside to the north and east and by Welbeck Road to the south. From the north west corner (Metro/ East Coast mainline), the western boundary runs south behind the industrial area to the west of Benfield Road. The boundary turns west on Shields Road, then south along Valentia Avenue and continues south along Roman Avenue until the junction with Welbeck Road. Roman Avenue provides a natural boundary between St Oswalds which is local authority housing and Byker Old Town which is predominately private rented properties. This proposal unifies the communities and type of housing in this area.

Residents in the proposed ward use St Martin's Centre which is in neighbouring proposed Ward 9, Byker and Ouseburn. In the rest of the proposed ward there are community facilities at Walkerville Community Centre, Ray Gray Centre and the Swans Recreation Grounds and Sporting Club. Walkergate has a large supermarket on the Fossway and residents also shop in the Fossway Shopping Centre. Residents also access facilities on Wallsend High Street in North Tyneside. The ward has good transport links with two Metro stations.

3.9 Proposed Ward 8 including Walker

2021 electorate and variance: 8,989 (8%)



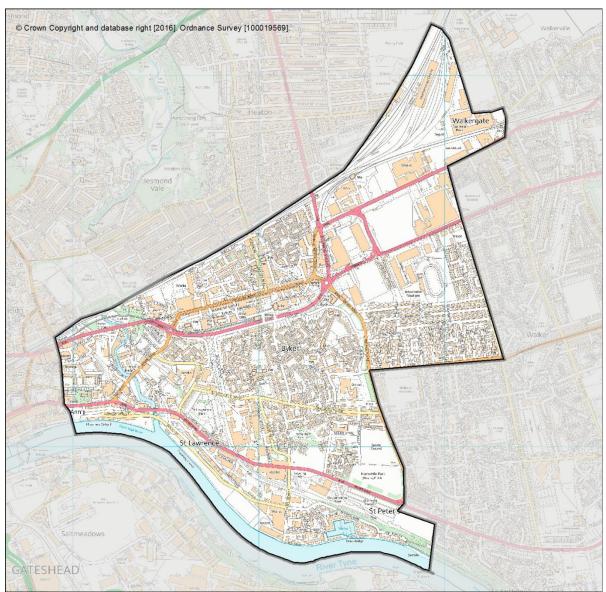
The proposed ward is bounded to the north by Welbeck Road, south and east by the River Tyne and Allendale Road to the west.

This proposal brings together the communities to the east of Allendale Road, respecting the physical boundary provided this provides and uniting residential land use. The area to the west of Allendale Road is Harbottle Park and the large council depot. The residential community was previously split in order to achieve electoral equality in the last review. People in this area tend to gravitate towards services within Walker, including shopping facilities, schools and medical facilities. Although the forecast electorate is slightly above the average, we feel that bringing a whole community in to one ward would be an improvement.

The proposed ward contains Monkchester Community Centre and Walker Activity Dome, including the library. There is an established network of residents groups including Central Walker Tenants and Residents Association and Riversgate Residents group. There are good transport links through Allendale Road, Walker Road, Welbeck Road and Birds Nest Road which are part of the bus network.

3.10 Proposed Ward 9 including Byker and Ouseburn

2021 electorate and variance: 8,326 (-0%)

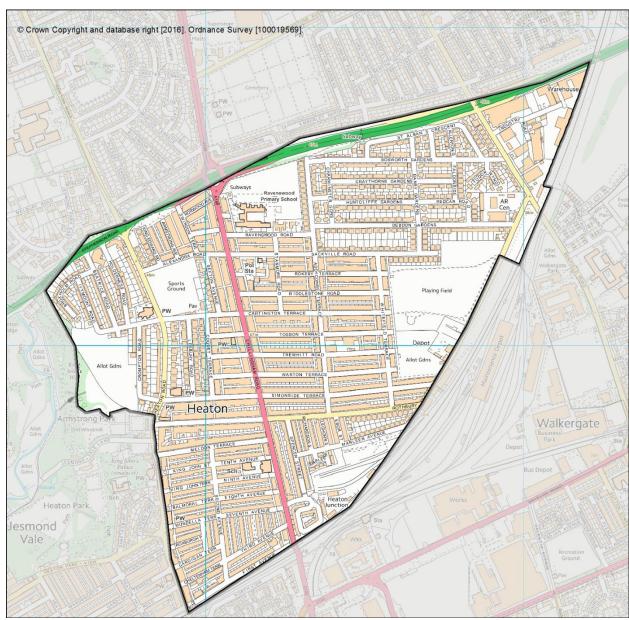


The proposed ward is bounded by the River Tyne to the south. To the north it is proposed to use the Metro and East Coast rail lines as a strong boundary because there are no crossing points. This proposal also brings Shields Road, the key district centre, within the same ward as the Byker residents who access the shopping, library, pool, medical and other leisure and community facilities such as public houses and a church situated here. The top of the eastern boundary runs south behind the industrial area west of Benfield Road, then west on Shields Road. It turns south along Valentia Avenue and continues south along Roman Avenue until the junction with Welbeck Road. Roman Avenue provides a natural boundary between St Oswalds which is local authority housing and Byker Old Town which is private rented properties.

The western boundary follows Crawhall Road south from the Metro and East Coast mainline to the Quayside and River Tyne (not including St Anne's estate), completing the boundary. This respects the boundary between the residential housing in Mariners Wharf and the business area on the east quayside. This brings all of the Ouseburn Valley in to one ward and ensures that the distinct St Ann's estate, made up of similar housing with its own community centre, is kept together. Although we do recognise that using this road as the boundary then splits St. Anne's estate from Melbourne Court, the benefits are that the Ouseburn Valley, a distinct cultural centre for arts, leisure and education, is unified under this proposal.

3.11 Proposed Ward 10 including Heaton

2021 electorate and variance: 8,778 (5%)

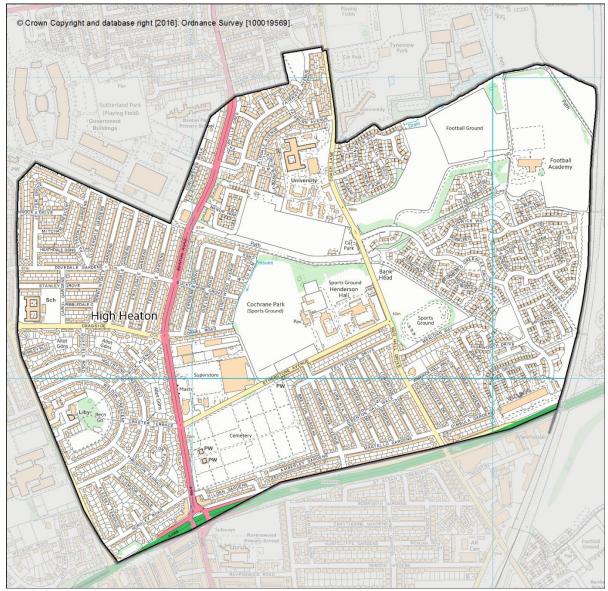


The proposed ward is bounded by the Coast Road (A1058) to the north which is a strong boundary due to being a dual carriageway and is a key part of the transport network connecting the city with the coast. Access across the Coast Road is very limited for pedestrians as there are no bridges or pedestrian crossings. It is proposed to use the Metro and East Coast rail lines, running south west, as a strong boundary because there are no crossing points. The western boundary runs south from the Coast Road down Jesmond Dene (excluded) and to the rear of Broxholm Road (included). The boundary turns east on to Heaton Road and heads south until meeting the railway line completing the boundary.

This proposed ward predominantly includes terraced houses occupied by families who access the schools in the area, and some student accommodation. Chillingham Road runs north-south through the centre and is a key area where residents access local amenities such as shops, restaurants, banks and medical facilities. It is also a main transport corridor with a Metro station and frequent buses linking to the city centre and North Tyneside. There are two primary schools and numerous leisure and social facilities including a community centre.

3.12 Proposed Ward 11 including High Heaton

2021 electorate and variance: 7,899 (-5%)

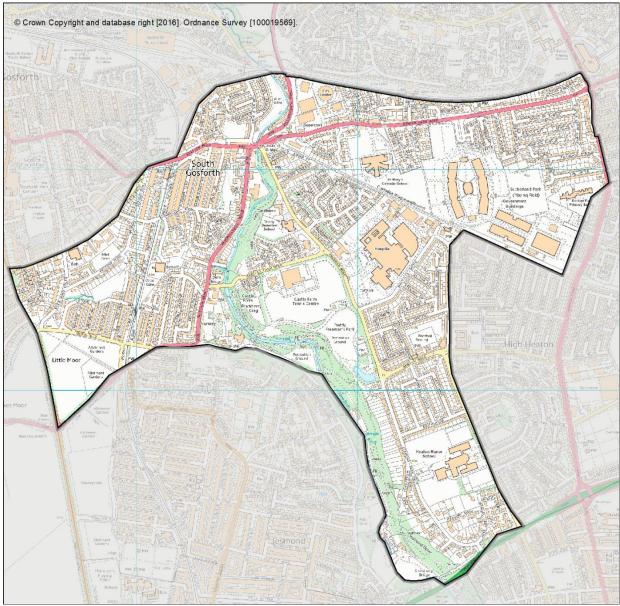


The proposed new ward is bounded by the city boundary with North Tyneside to the north and east. Starting at Benton Road to the north of the proposed ward, the boundary runs south down Benton Road (A188). It heads behind the properties starting at 311 Benton Road (included) and continues south between the residential properties on Corchester Walk (included) and the large Department for Work and Pensions site (excluded) until it meets with Cumberland Walk. The boundary then runs north-west to include residential streets including Teviotdale Gardens, Teesdale Gardens and Patterdale Gardens. It runs down Cleveland Gardens and Newton Road to join the Coast Road. The Coast Road (A1058) to the south is a strong boundary; it is a dual carriageway and is a key part of the transport network connecting the city with the coast. Access across the Coast Road is very limited for pedestrians as there are no bridges or pedestrian crossing.

This proposed ward brings together predominately housing estates with some open spaces. There is local authority housing by the Spinney on the western boundary and 1930's privately owned semi-detached houses elsewhere. There are significant university facilities in the east of the ward including Coach Lane Campus and large halls of residence. The Newcastle United Football Academy is also situated within this ward. There are a range of retail outlets throughout the ward and excellent transport links to the city centre and beyond through the Coast Road.

3.13 Proposed Ward 12 including South Gosforth and Dene

2021 electorate and variance: 7,729 (-5%)



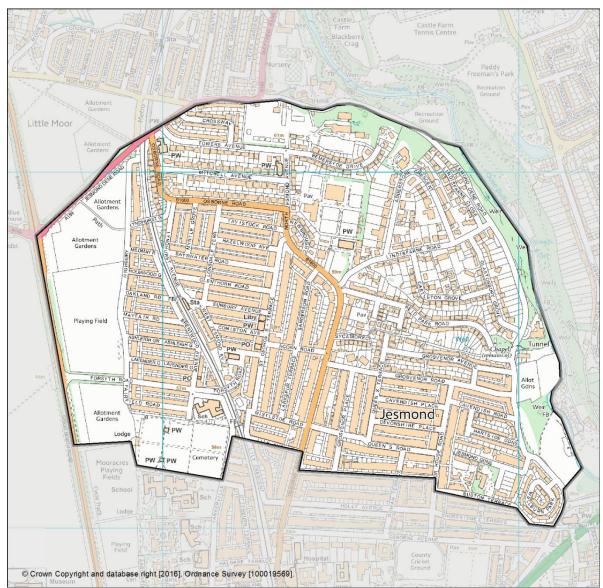
This proposed ward is partially bounded by the city boundary with North Tyneside to the north and east. From the north east corner, the boundary runs south down Benton Road (A188). It heads down the back of the properties starting at 311 Benton Road (not included in this ward) and continues south between the residential properties on Corchester Walk (not included) and government buildings (included) until it meets with Cumberland Walk. At this point, the boundary continues north-west to include the government buildings and exclude the residential streets including Teviotdale Gardens, Teesdale Gardens, Patterdale Gardens. The boundary runs down Cleveland Gardens and Newton Road to join the Coast Road. The boundary runs west along the Coast Road (A1058) to Jesmond Dene. From here, the boundary runs north up Jesmond Dene (included) and continues along Jesmond Dene Road (A189) until it meets the Great North Road (B1318). The boundary runs north along the Great North Road. The boundary turns north east along The Grove until it joins Station Road (A191). The boundary follows Station Road east for a short distance before using the metro line to complete the boundary.

Within this proposed ward there is a mixture of housing types, predominately family homes, including Victorian Terraces in South Gosforth and 1950's semi-detached homes in the south of the ward. There are also large areas of open space, including Paddy Freeman's Park and

Jesmond Dene. The communities are well established in this area. There are good transport links to the city centre and beyond through the bus network and Metro Station and residents also access the shopping facilities on Station Road. This ward also includes the large Department for Work and Pensions site and the Freeman Hospital.

3.14 Proposed Ward 13 including Jesmond north

2021 electorate and variance: 8,248 (-1%)

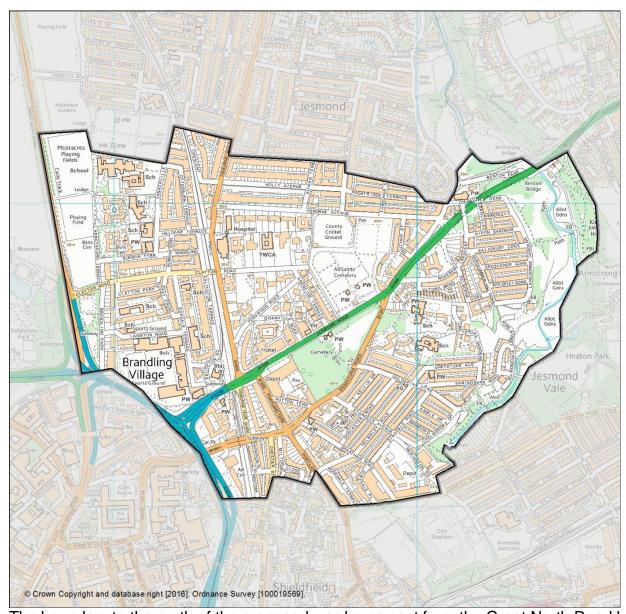


The eastern boundary for this proposed ward is the Great North Road. From the north-west corner the boundary runs north east along Jesmond Dene Road (A189) until it joins the course of the Ouseburn River. It continues along the Ouseburn River until it reaches the south east corner of the ward. From this point the boundary briefly joins Jesmond Dene Road, turns west on to Shortridge Terrace for a short distance and then onto Buston Terrace and head west until the junction with Manor House Road. The boundary continues west on Fern Avenue until it meets Osborne Road. Here it turns north and then quickly west along Lily Avenue and south down Tankerville Terrace. At the junction with Otterburn Terrace the boundary heads west between West Jesmond Primary School and St Andrew's Cemetery to join the Great North Road. Here the boundary heads north as far as the junction with Jesmond Dene Road, completing the boundary.

Jesmond north has a large student population living in houses of multiple-occupation alongside neighbourhoods of large family houses, such as those located to the north of Osbourne Road. There are large open spaces towards the west of the ward with allotments and playing fields. There is a distinct thriving night time economy on Osbourne Road. There is a district centre on Acorn Road which provides a range of shops and services and the proposed ward is well linked to the rest of the city through the Metro station and frequent bus services. The library and pool are operated by community groups and well used by residents.

3.15 Proposed Ward 14 including Jesmond south

2021 electorate and variance: 8,405 (1%)

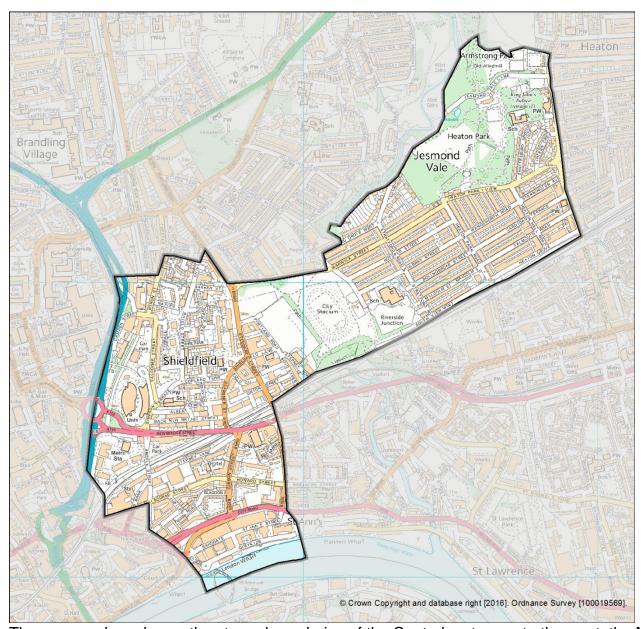


The boundary to the north of the proposed ward runs east from the Great North Road between West Jesmond Primary School and St Andrew's Cemetery to meet Tankerville Terrace, where it turns northwards and then east on to Lily Avenue until Osborne Road. It heads briefly south then east along Fern Avenue until meeting Manor House Road and continues east along Buston Terrace, briefly on to Shortridge Terrace until it meets Jesmond Dene Road. It then follows the course of the Ouseburn River south west until Stratford Grove West (rear of) where it continues west, then south on Newington Road and west on Warwick Street until it meets Portland Road (B1600). It runs north along Portland Road, west on Shield Street and winds through Milton Place, Chester Street and on to Gladstone Terrace, joining the Central Motorway. Finally, it continues north west on the Central Motorway, turning north up the Great North Road until it meets the north east corner.

This proposal brings the distinct neighbourhoods of Brandling Village, Jesmond Vale, Cradlewell, Manor House and Brentwood into one ward. Each neighbourhood has a range of independent retailers, social and leisure facilities with good transport links. There are two Metro stations and the close proximity city centre. The proposed ward has a mixture of family housing and converted student accommodation.

3.16 Proposed Ward 15 including Shieldfield and Heaton west

2021 electorate and variance: 8,999 (8%)



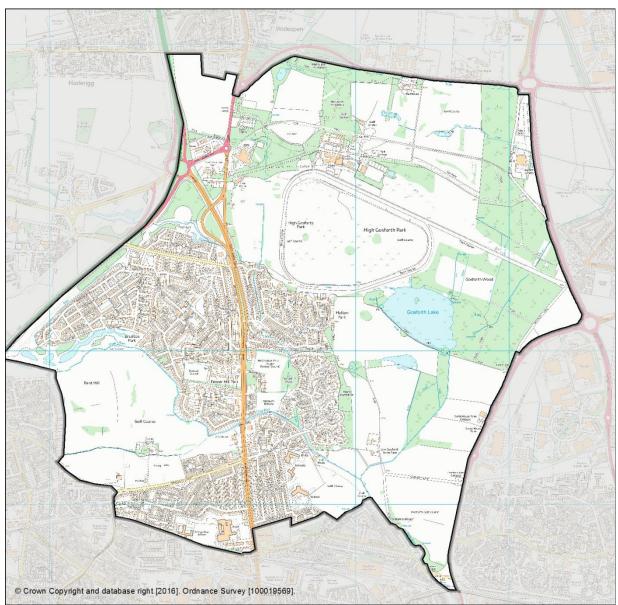
The proposed ward uses the strong boundaries of the Central motorway to the west, the Metro and East Coast mainline to the east and the River Tyne to the south. From the River Tyne, the western boundary heads north from the Quayside on to Tower Street, west on Melbourne Street and then north on Trafalgar Street and on to the central motorway (A167M). It then runs north until immediately prior to the Territorial Army Centre on the east side, where it turns east on to Gladstone Terrace. It turns north up Chester Street, east on to Milton Place, then north on Shields Street until meeting Portland Road. Here the boundary turns south, then east at the roundabout with Warwick Street. It turns briefly north on to Newington Road, then east to the rear of Stratford Grove West. It continues on the west edge of Jesmond Vale (included), Heaton Park and Armstrong Park, where it joins Heaton Road and heads south until it meets the Metro and East Coast mainline. It continues west until meeting Crawhall Road (B1600), where it turns south down to the Quayside and River Tyne (not including St Anne's estate), completing the boundary.

This proposal brings Shieldfield and Heaton west in to one ward. Shieldfield is an urban village with a church, school, shops and social facilities where households are generally families and older people who live in high rise tower blocks. Towards the north of the ward on Warwick Street

there are traditional Victorian Tyneside terraces where a mixture of families and students live. There is a large student population in Heaton west and there is significant development planned in the centre of the proposed ward to increase student accommodation. There are district centres on Heaton Park Road and Heaton Road providing shops and other amenities and there are good transport links to the city centre which is nearby. There are also significant areas of open space in the ward with Jesmond Vale, Heaton Park and Armstrong Park within the proposed boundaries.

3.17 Proposed Ward 16 including Parklands

2021 electorate and variance: 7,905 (-5%)

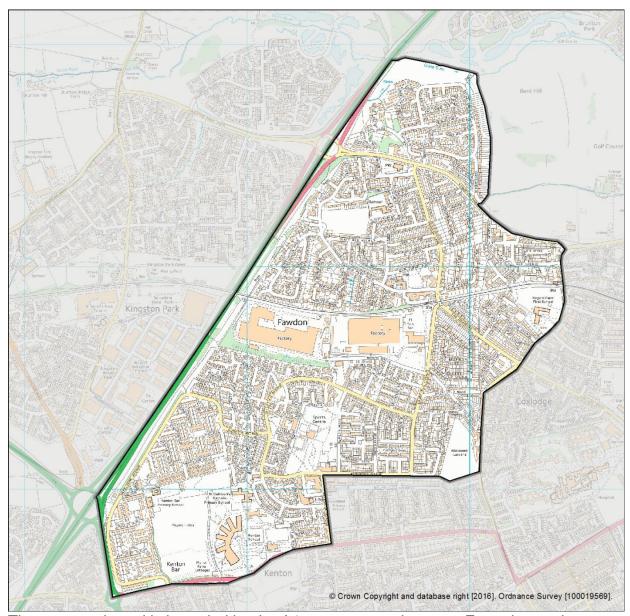


The proposed ward is bounded by the city boundary with North Tyneside to the north and east and by the A1 to the west. Starting from the south-west corner, the southern boundary runs east along the Ouseburn and south using the City of Newcastle Golf Course western boundary (included) until it meets Kingston Park Road, where it heads east and then south on Wansbeck Road's North until the Metro line. Here it turns east, following the Metro line until the Great North Road where it continues briefly north before turning east after the supermarket and before Harewood Road / Links Green (included). It continues east along the boundary between Gosforth Golf Course (included), excluding the residential properties on Fernwood Avenue and Briarwood Avenue. Finally, the boundary continues south along to Ouseburn to meet the east (and city) boundary.

This proposed ward includes large areas of open space and a range of established estates and new developments, all of which are privately owned family homes. This includes the part of the recently built Newcastle Great Park to the east of the A1, bringing newer communities in Whitebridge Park and Greystoke Park and more established / mature Brunton Park and Melton Park. There are shopping facilities in Brunton Park and Melton Park but residents also relate to shopping and other services at Gosforth High Street. Open spaces at High Gosforth Park and Newcastle Race Course are within this ward.

3.18 Proposed Ward 17 including Fawdon and Kenton Bar

2021 electorate and variance: 8,395 (1%)

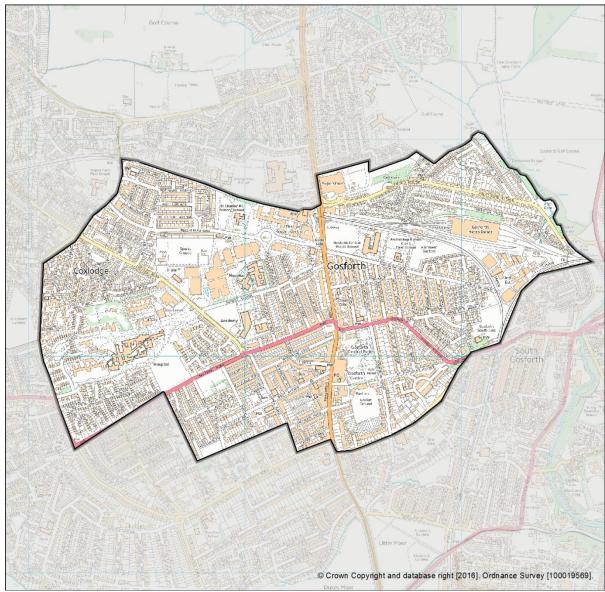


The proposed ward is bounded by the A1 motorway to the west. From the north-west corner the boundary run east along the Ouseburn and to the north and east of Red House Farm estate (included) until it meets Kingston Park Road and heads eastward. The east boundary runs south on Wansbeck Road North, Wansback Road South and Kenton Road. From here the south boundary turns west off Kenton Road between Kirkwood Drive (included) and Mountfield Gardens (excluded). At Halewood Avenue the boundary turns south, then west on Kenton Lane until meeting Ponteland Road and joining the A1 to complete the boundary.

This proposed ward includes Fawdon, Kenton Bar, North Kenton and Red House Farm where there is mixed tenure. Residents access the services in Fawdon, the district centre with a Metro station, public house, shops and other services that residents use. Residents also relate to the library and customer service centre in North Kenton. Kenton Bar is a distinct community with a tenants and residents association and a district centre with shops and a primary school. Due to the limited access across the A1 and Kenton Lane those who do not own a car rely on a local bus service.

3.19 Proposed Ward 18 including Gosforth north

2021 electorate and variance: 8,097 (-3%)

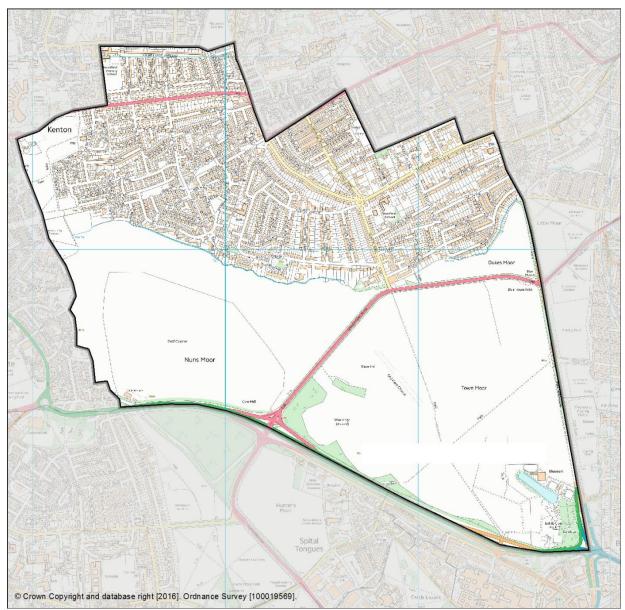


The proposed north boundary uses the Metro line from Wansbeck Metro Station to the Great North Road, continuing briefly north before turning east after the large supermarket and before Harewood Road / Links Green (excluded). It continues east along Gosforth Golf Course (excluded), including the residential properties on Fernwood Avenue and Briarwood Avenue then south along the Ouseburn until the Metro line. From here it follows the Metro line south west on to Station Road and continues south west on The Grove until it meets Great North Road / Gosforth High Street. Here it turns west briefly on to Elmfield Road, then north on Linden Road and west again on Hawthorn Road West, Beechfield Road and Meadowfield Road. It then runs north between Northfield Road (excluded) and Wolsingham Road (included) until Salters Road where it turns west. Finally, it heads north on Kenton Road, Wansbeck Road South and Wansbeck Road North, completing the boundary.

Gosforth High Street runs through the centre of the proposed ward, bringing the communities on either side together. The schools, restaurants and independent shops and large shops on this road are popular as well as the Regent Centre and large supermarkets. There are a range of housing types, predominately privately owned. The distinct Coxlodge community is within this ward where there are pockets of local authority owned homes. There are good transport links with two Metro stations and bus routes on the main roads.

3.20 Proposed Ward 19 including Gosforth west, Kenton and Town Moor

2021 electorate and variance: 7,697 (-8%)

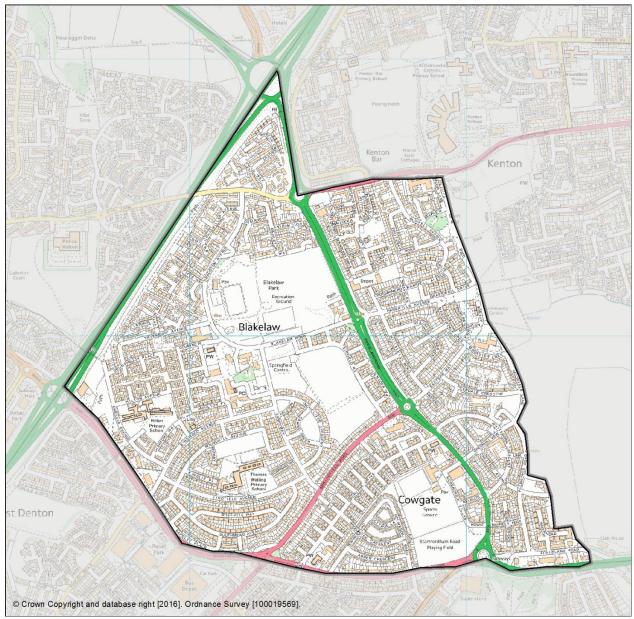


The proposed ward is bounded by Nuns Moor / Newcastle United Golf Course and Town Moor to the west and south. From the south east corner (Exhibition Park) the east boundary runs north on Great North Road, turning west briefly on to Elmfield Road, before turning north on Linden Road and the west again on Hawthorn Road West, Beechfield Road and Meadowfield Road. It then turns north running between Northfield Road (included) and Wolsingham Road (excluded) until Salters Road where it turns west until Kenton Road. Here the boundary heads north on Kenton Road, turning off west between Mountfield Gardens (included) and Kirkwood Drive (excluded). The boundary then turns south down Halewood Avenue and west on Kenton Lane, then south between Cowgate estate and Nuns Moor, completing the boundary.

This includes a large area of open space to the south and diverse communities to the north. There are large semi-detached properties along the edge of the Nuns Moor, smaller housing at Ashburton and older people's accommodation. The proposal includes the distinct community in the terraces to the north of Kenton Lane to achieve electoral equality. There are no Metro stations in this ward and however there is relatively high car ownership and good pedestrian links to the city centre. To the south of the ward there are large open spaces on Nuns Moor, including the Newcastle United Golf Course and the Town Moor.

3.21 Proposed Ward 20 including Blakelaw and Cowgate

2021 electorate and variance: 7,763 (-7%)

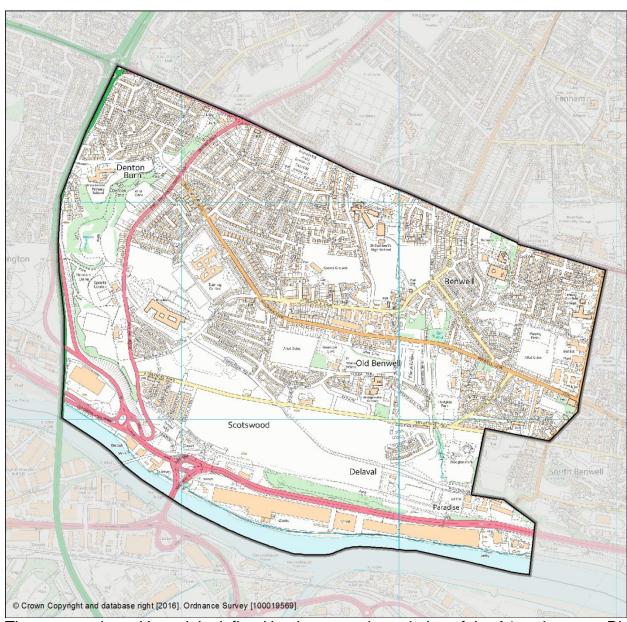


The proposed ward is bounded by the A1 motorway to the west, Stamfordham Road to the south, Nuns Moor and Newcastle United Golf Course to the east and Kenton Lane / Ponteland Road to the north.

This proposal brings together the defined Cowgate and Montague estates in the east of the proposed ward with the '165' estate in Blakelaw, Blakelaw Central, Cragside and Cheviot View in the west. The housing in this area is predominately local authority owned. Cowgate does not have district centre and residents access the services available in Blakelaw. Ponteland Road which is central to the proposed ward provides a range of shops, health services, access to public transport and social facilities. This ward is on the central route to the city centre and central motorway, providing good transport links.

3.22 Proposed Ward 21 including Benwell and Scotswood

2021 electorate and variance: 8,827 (6%)

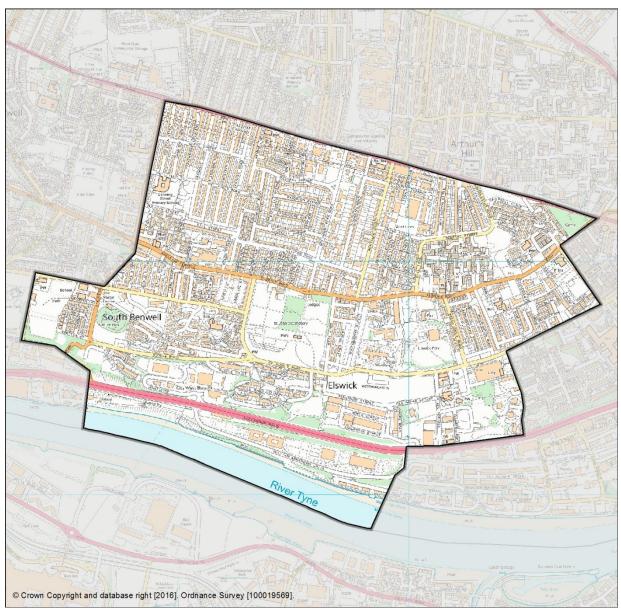


The proposed ward is mainly defined by the strong boundaries of the A1 to the west, River Tyne to the south and West Road (A186) to the north. The eastern boundary runs south from the West Road along Condercum Road, west along Armstrong Road, south down South Benwell Road and east on Whitehouse Road, crossing Scotswood Road to meet the River Tyne.

The proposed ward contains the distinct urban villages of Benwell and Scotswood with significant housing development taking place between the two. There is a mixture of tenure across this ward including privately owned homes and a large number of local authority owned homes, including Pendower estate. The residents of this proposed ward come from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds. The proposed ward includes Denton Burn where the library, medical facilities and shops are located alongside open space. There are a range of leisure facilities across the ward including a cricket club and tennis club. There are a number schools located within the area including an academy, primary and secondary schools. Along the riverside there a riverside there are industrial and retail parks. Residents can access the city centre however transport links from the ward northwards are limited.

3.23 Proposed Ward 22 including Elswick

2021 electorate and variance: 8,974 (8%)

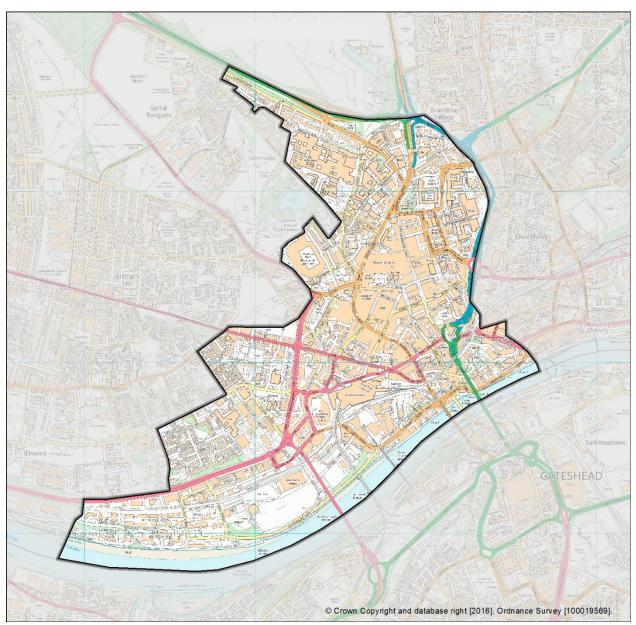


The proposal uses the strong boundaries of Westgate Road (A186) to the north and River Tyne to the south. From Westgate Road the east boundary runs southwards along Elswick Road, Rye Hill and west on to Westmorland Road. From here it turns south on to Park Road until Scotswood Road. At the junction with William Armstrong Drive it turns south to meet the city boundary and River Tyne. The boundary runs west along the river and turns northwards at the works located below Whitehouse Road junction, then heads west until South Benwell Road and heads north. At the junction with Armstrong Road it turns east before heading northwards on Atkinson Road and Condercum Road. The boundary is completed by heading east on West Road.

There are a range of diverse communities in this proposed ward which also brings the North Benwell Terraces and High Cross in to one ward. Victorian terraces including flats and houses are predominately privately rented alongside the recently converted Riverside Dene high rise. A number of established tenants and residents groups represent the distinct communities. There are open spaces at Elswick Park. Along the riverside there are trading estates and small businesses. There are good transport links to the city centre through the bus network.

3.24 Proposed Ward 23 including the city centre

2021 electorate and variance: 8,212 (-1%)



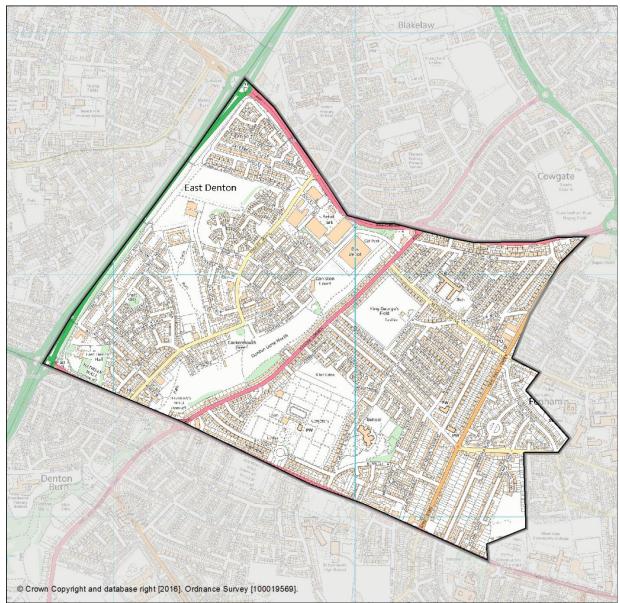
The proposed ward is bounded by the Tyne River to the south. From the south west corner the boundary runs north joining William Armstrong Drive and then east on Scotswood Road and north again on to Park Road. It turns east on Westmorland Road, north on Rye Hill and east on Elswick Road, crossing the Westgate Road and continuing east on Corporation Street. Here the boundary heads northwards briefly on St James' Boulevard and Barrack Road, turning between St James' Park (included) and Leazes Park (excluded) and including Leazes Terrace and Leazes Crescent before joining Richardson Road. It heads north-west up Richardson Road, to the rear of the student accommodation. The proposed ward includes Wallace Street and Morpeth Street, joining Hunter's Road and crossing Claremont Road on to the Jedburgh Road (A167). Here the boundary turn south east on the A167, turning into the Central Motorway, and follows this creating the eastern boundary to the ward until turning on to Trafalgar Street, then east on Melbourne Street, south on Tower Street and making it ways to the River Tyne.

Key features within this proposed city centre ward include the Civic Centre, Northumbria University and Newcastle University campuses, the Royal Victoria Infirmary hospital and St James' football ground. It also contains the city centre business, shopping, cultural and nightlife districts, including

the Quayside and Northumberland Street. There are established communities living in traditional homes to the west, alongside a growing student population and with significant development of purpose built student accommodation taking place throughout the ward. The key transport links, including the Central Station and various Metro stations and bus stations are within this ward. Alongside the riverside there are also industrial estates and the Newcastle Business Park.

3.25 Proposed Ward 24 including Fenham west

2021 electorate and variance: 7,703 (-8%)

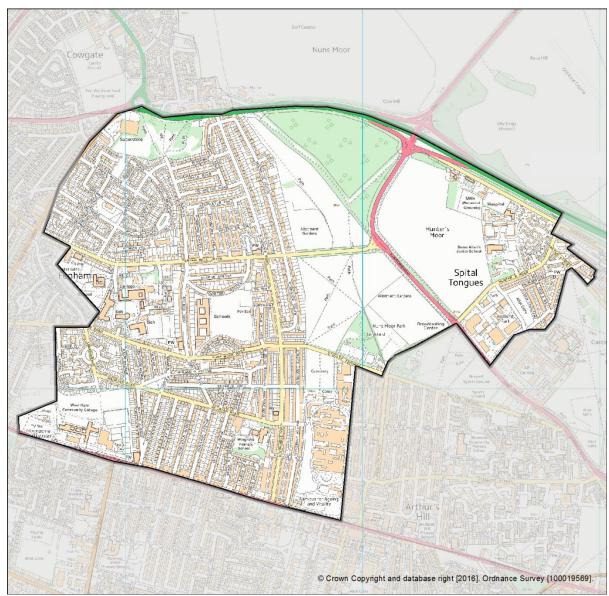


The proposed ward is bounded by the A1 motorway to the west, Stamfordham Road to the north and West Road to the south. From Stamfordham Road, the east boundary heads south down Two Ball Lonnen until it meets Fenham Hall Drive. It heads east briefly on Fenham Hall Drive, then south between the properties on Lonnen Avenue / Minosa Place (included) and Sacred Heart Primary School (not included) and on to Convent Road. The boundary turns west on Cedar Road, then south between the properties on Acanthus Avenue (not included) and Hindley Gardens (included) until it reaches the West Road.

Within this proposed ward there are number of diverse neighbourhoods. In the Blackett Ord estate and Hadrian Road the houses are mainly family homes and flats, largely privately owned or rented. In Newminster estate the homes are mainly local authority owned where many residents have exercised their right to buy. The large Slatyford area comprises of mainly local authority housing as well as some owner-occupied 1920's bungalows. Residents in this area access the shopping area in Denton Burn which borders the proposed Ward 21, which includes Benwell and Scotswood and the district shopping centres on Two Ball Lonnen, West Road and shops on Fenham Hall Drive. Residents also use the library, swimming pool and medical centre on Fenham Hall Drive.

3.26 Proposed Ward 25 including Fenham east

2021 electorate and variance: 7,722 (-7%)

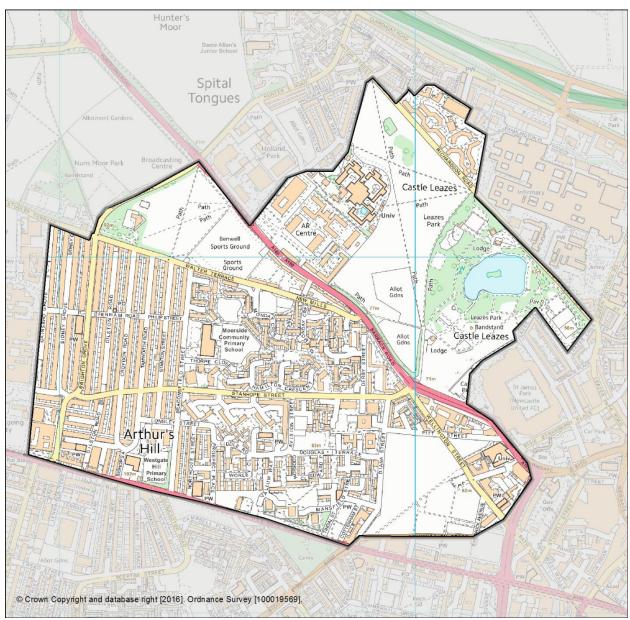


The proposed ward boundary uses Jedburgh Road to the north and the Westgate Road to the south. The west boundary runs south on Two Ball Lonnen, briefly eastward on Fenham Hall Drive then southwards between the properties on Lonnen Avenue / Minosa Place (not included) and Sacred Heart Primary School (included) on to Convent Road. It turns west on Cedar Road then south between the properties on Acanthus Avenue (included) and Hindley Gardens (not included) until the West Road. The south boundary follows the West Road east until immediately prior to Arthur's Hill estate where it turns north between the estate and the General Hospital site, briefly east on Studley Terrace and northeast on Brighton Grove to Barrack Road (A189), where it briefly heads southeast. It then runs north on Holland Drive between the TA Centre and Holland Park, on to Belle View Terrace, including the residential properties on Morpeth Street, and through to Claremont Road until the central motorway.

This proposed ward includes diverse neighbourhoods and large open spaces in Nunsmoor Park, Nuns Moor and Town Moor. The Royal Crescent estate is largely local authority estate and Hadrian's Road is a highly populated family estate close to the West Road with access to the shops, medical, leisure and social facilities and a Hindu Temple. Residents here also access the library, swimming pool and medical centre on Fenham Hall Drive which is in the proposed Ward 24 (Fenham west).

3.27 Proposed Ward 26 including Arthur's Hill and Leazes

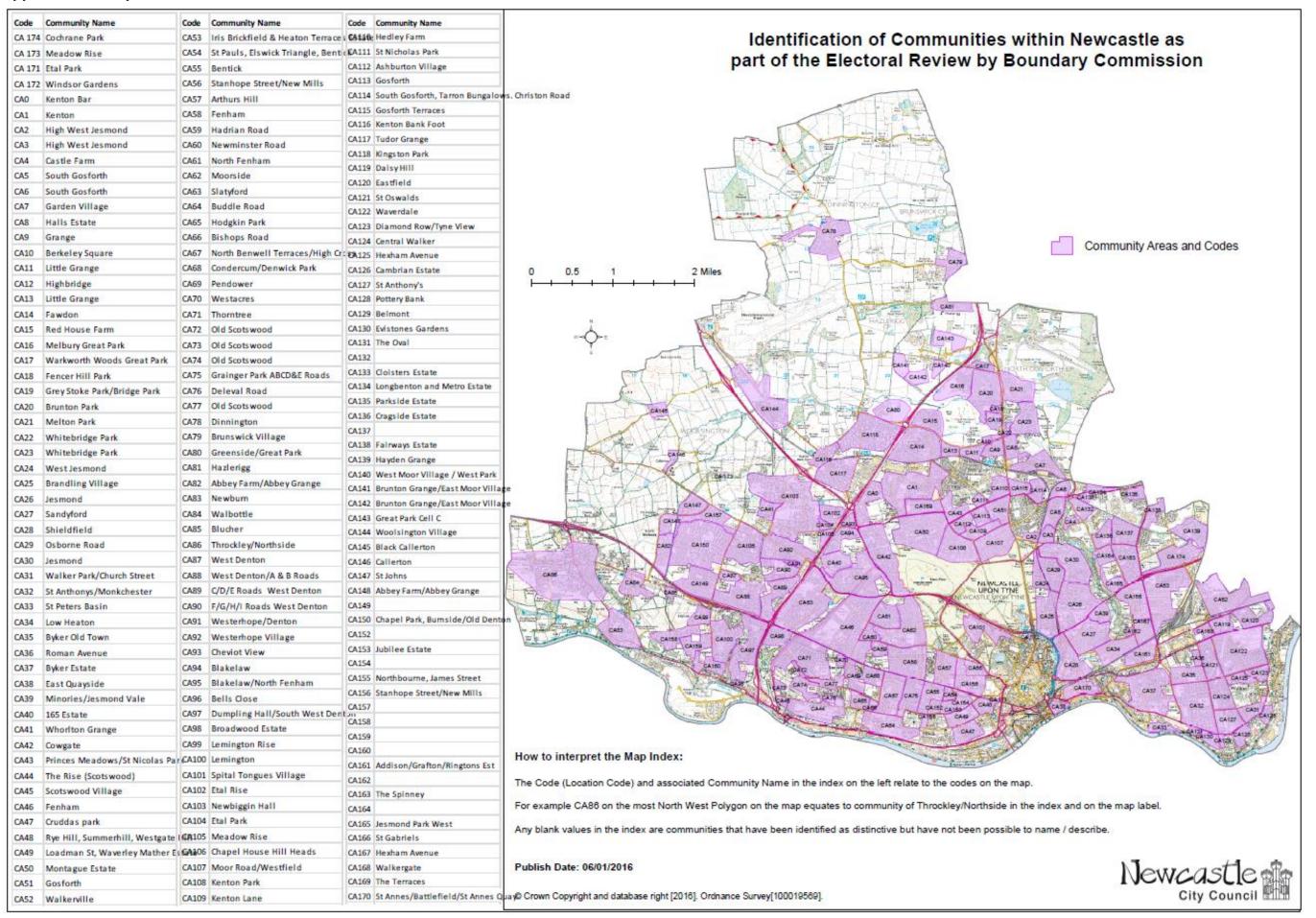
2021 electorate and variance: 8,063 (-3%)



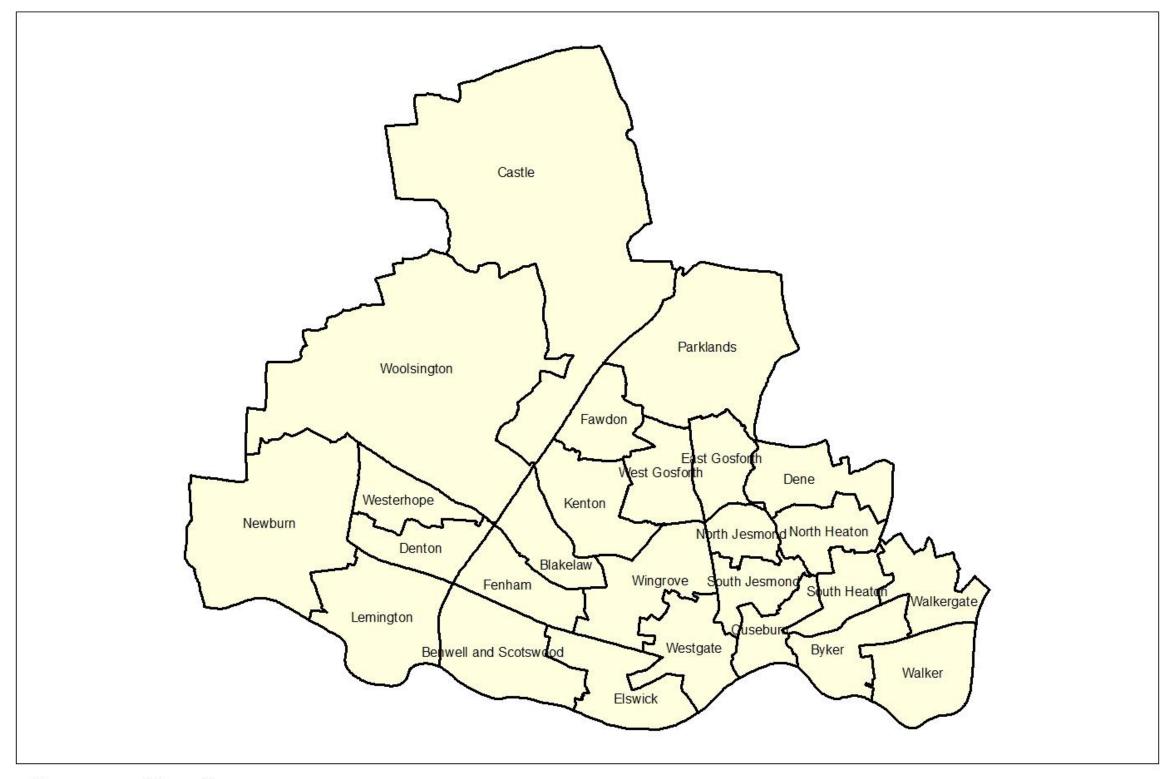
From the south west corner, the boundary turns north between the General Hospital site and Arthur's Hill estate, then briefly east on Studley Terrace and northwards on to Brighton Grove until Barrack Road (A189). From here it runs south east on Barrack Road, then north on Holland Drive between the TA Centre and Holland Park continuing on to Belle View Terrace. It then runs to the rear of the student accommodation on Richardson Road, continuing south east until Leazes Crescent (not included). The boundary runs to the south east of Leazes Park (included) and excludes St James' Park until it meets Barrack Road. It continues south-east along Barrack Road, briefly on to St James' Boulevard, then westward on Corporation Street until Westgate Road, where it continues west completing the boundary.

This proposed ward brings the community of Arthur's Hill in to the same ward as Leazes Village, halls of residence at Castle Leazes and the important community facility Leazes Park with Green Flag Heritage status. Arthur's Hill is predominately traditional Tyneside terraces which from the West Road to Nunsmoor Park, with a growing number of independent retailers and cafes. Residents have easy access to the city centre and beyond through good transport links along the main roads. The proposed ward also includes the Science Centre development site.

Appendix A - Map of identified communities



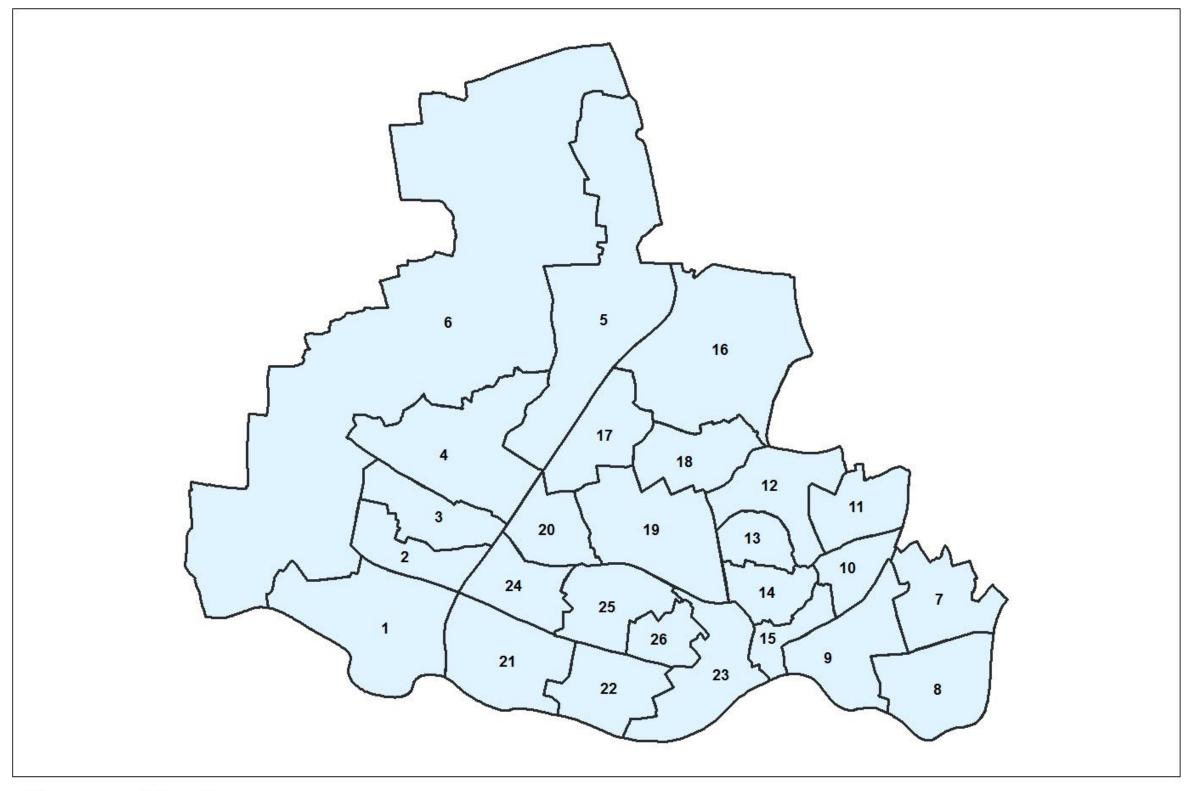
Current Newcastle wards





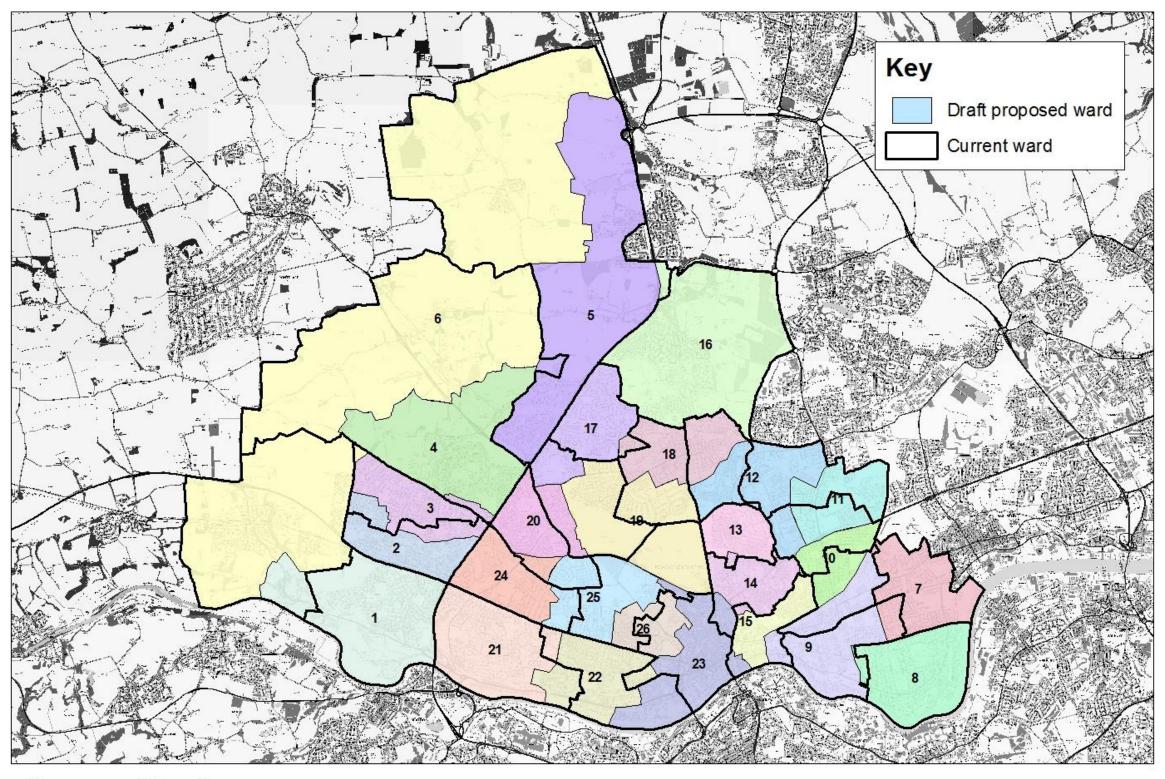
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DRAFT proposed wards for Newcastle





Draft warding pattern for Newcastle





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