

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2025

Comments received and Acting Returning Officer's response

This document outlines the comments received during consultation. Note that only the areas which received comments are detailed in this document.

Benwell, Scotswood and Denton Burn Ward

Polling District: B01

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Denton Burn Library, 713 West Road, NE15 7QQ

Comment Received From: Councillor H Stephenson

Comment: “Retaining Denton Burn Methodist Church for the Thorntree Estate from Denton Road upwards and extending its use to accommodate more areas up the West Road to the new boundary. It is accessible for all, as is Denton Burn library further down the West Road, for the Broadwood Estate down to Wood Grove. A lot of elderly who like to vote on the Thorntree Estate and use the church as well as on Broadwood Estate. Both Denton Burn Library and Denton Burn Methodist Church should be kept to reflect that.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO was happy to keep Denton Burn Methodist Church as opposed to the use of Denton Burn Library following the comments from Cllr Stephenson.

In later discussions with ARO staff, Cllr Stephenson expressed a broader preference for keeping both the library and the church as polling venues.

ARO staff followed this request up with taking a further review of electorate size, historical turnout data and the proximity from the Wood Grove area to both buildings. The ARO is confident that merging polling districts B01 and B02 into a single district with one polling place is sufficient to serve the area.

The approximate walking time between the library and the church is four minutes. While electors who previously voted at the library will now need to cross Denton Road, this was already the case for those living on Howdene Road.

The final recommendation is to implement the proposed changes to the polling district and to continue with the use of Denton Burn Methodist Church as this has previously served a large part of the electorate and is well located within the district.

Final Recommendation: Denton Burn Methodist Church, 615-621 West Road, NE15 7ER

Polling District: B02

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Excelsior Academy, Denton Road, NE15 6AF (Preliminary Consultation)
- Broadmead Way Community Church, 90 Broadmead Way, NE15 6TS

Comment Received From: Councillor H Stephenson

Comment: “Excelsior is difficult without a car due to the steep incline from Denton Road. It has never been used before due to this, and we had to move away from using schools for security safeguarding and space and security issues. I therefore suggest retaining Broadmead Way Community Church as a polling place for this district.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Taking into consideration the comments received, the ARO’s final recommendation is to continue with the use of Broadmead Way Community Church as this has previously served a large part of the electorate in the district.

Final Recommendation: Broadmead Way Community Church, 90 Broadmead Way, NE15 6TS

Polling District: B03

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Bridgewater Primary School, Delaval Road, NE15 6NL (Preliminary Consultation)
- St Margaret’s Church, Heighley Street, NE15 6AR

Comment Received From: Councillor H Stephenson

Comment: “A lot of older people could not easily access that, therefore suggest retaining St Margaret’s Church in Heighley Street.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: After reviewing the feedback received and conducting a site visit to Bridgewater Primary School, the school which was deemed unsuitable.

Final Recommendation: St Margaret’s Church, Heighley Street, NE15 6AR

Castle Ward

Polling District: E01

Constituency: Cramlington and Killingworth

Proposal at Consultation: Greenside Rest Centre, Greenside Avenue, NE13 7DY

Comment Received From: Acting Returning Officer Dr Helen Paterson, Northumberland County Council

Comment: “The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. The ARO supports the proposal.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: **Greenside Rest Centre, Greenside Avenue, NE13 7DY**

Polling District: E02

Constituency: Cramlington and Killingworth

Proposal at Consultation: Hazlerigg Community Centre, Hazlerigg, NE13 7AS

Comment Received From: Acting Returning Officer Dr Helen Paterson, Northumberland County Council

Comment: “The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. Polling districts E02 and U03 are in different parliamentary constituencies which have different count locations. Robust arrangements will need to be in place to ensure postal votes and ballot papers do not inadvertently go to the wrong count venue. In the absence of an alternative within the relevant constituency, the ARO supports the proposal.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Newcastle will liaise with Northumberland during any cross-boundary elections and will ensure that robust arrangements are in place, so that votes go back to the correct count venue.

Final Recommendation: **Hazlerigg Community Centre, Hazlerigg, NE13 7AS**

Chapel Ward

Polling District: F01

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Knoplaw Primary School, Hillhead Parkway, NE5 1DS

Comment Received From: Cllr M Donnelly

Comment: "No concerns over using Knoplaw Primary. Considering the numbers using each of the polling stations and to allow ease of access it is useful to have Knoplaw Primary School as an additional polling station which eases pressure on residents accessing the Chadca Centre facility by car."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Knoplaw Primary School, Hillhead Parkway, NE5 1DS

Polling District: F02

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Chadca Centre, Hanover Close, NE5 1EG

Comment Received From: Cllr M Donnelly

Comment: "I am happy with what you suggest. CHADCA normally use the Coffee Shop but there is a reasonable step. It will therefore either be better if they allow access through the Fire Exit at the side or use the Hall."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Chadca Centre, Hanover Close, NE5 1EG

Polling District: F03

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Westerhope Comm. Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Comment Received From: Cllr M Donnelly

Comment: "I have often thought that it was unfair that Westerhope community association is not a double polling station to allow residents of Denton and Westerhope, to vote who are literally across the road, as it is some distance to walk to Westerhope Village."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Westerhope Comm. Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Polling District: F03

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Westerhope Comm. Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Comment Received From: Mr D Armstrong CEO of Westerhope Community Association

Comment: "Happy with the proposal to use as a polling place, adequate parking, accessible. Prior to a change in ward boundaries the Centre hosted two voting places, one covering Chapel Park and the other Hillheads (part of). I know from resident's comments that Hillhead people find travelling to Westerhope Methodist Church a bit of a pain given that they otherwise could simply cross Hillhead Road to our Centre."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Westerhope Comm. Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Dene and South Gosforth Ward

Polling District: G01

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- South Gosforth First School, Alnmouth Drive, South Gosforth, NE3 1YF (Preliminary Consultation)
- Little Aidan's, 2 Newlands Road, NE2 3NT

Comment Received From: Cllr W Taylor

Comment: Expressed an interest in using South Gosforth First School as a polling place. No problem with the suggestion of Little Aidan's.

(Acting) Returning Officer Response:

Upon a site visit to South Gosforth First School, it was determined that this school would not be a suitable option. The building is not easy to locate (especially in a vehicle), and the only area available is an annex used for the nursery children so this would mean a part closure for the school. On this basis this option was discarded.

The previous polling places used by the electorate in this district (St George's Church Hall and South Northumberland Cricket Club) are now in different wards, therefore an alternative building was needed.

Final Recommendation: Little Aidan's, 2 Newlands Road, NE2 3NT

Polling District: G01

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- South Gosforth First School, Alnmouth Drive, South Gosforth, NE3 1YF (Preliminary Consultation)
- Little Aidan's, 2 Newlands Road, NE2 3NT

Comment Received From: Resident of Ridgewood Crescent

Comment: "I strongly object to this idea if there are suitable alternatives. It is not only disruptive for the children to miss a day of school, but also very difficult for working parents who then have to either take a precious day off work or somehow find alternative childcare. Please consider the use of the school building as an absolute last resort."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Upon a site visit to South Gosforth First School, it was determined that this school would not be a suitable option. The building is not easy to locate (especially in a vehicle), and the only area available is an annex used for the nursery children so this would mean a part closure for the school. On this basis this option was discarded.

The previous polling places used by the electorate in this district (St George's Church Hall and South Northumberland Cricket Club) are now in different wards, therefore an alternative building was needed.

Final Recommendation: Little Aidan's, 2 Newlands Road, NE2 3NT

Polling District: G02

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: Gosforth Parish Church Hall, Wardale Street, Off Church Avenue, NE3 1AN

Comment Received From: Cllr W Taylor

Comment: "I have no problem with the suggestions for G02"

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Gosforth Parish Church Hall, Wardale Street, Off Church Avenue, NE3 1AN

Polling District: G03

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: Trinity Community Centre, Freeman Road, NE3 1SX

Comment Received From: Cllr W Taylor

Comment: "I have no problem with the suggestions for G03."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Trinity Community Centre, Freeman Road, NE3 1SX

Polling District: G04

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- Northumbria University, Coach Lane Campus, 15 Coach Lane, NE7 7TR (Preliminary Consultation)
- Novocastrians RFC, Sutherland Park, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7SZ

Comment Received From: Cllr Wendy Taylor

Comment: "Your suggestion for G04 Northumbria University isn't in the polling district or even in Dene and South Gosforth ward so I don't understand why it has been suggested. Perhaps we could look at a shop at Four Lane Ends or Sutherland Park Rugby Club (Disabled access could be a problem there). Otherwise, would a portacabin not be possible as a temporary measure."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The current polling station that serves this group of electors, "Benton Park Primary School" is currently closed for refurbishment and is likely to remain closed at the time of the 2026 polls. It is currently unknown if after the refurbishment the school will be available to use as a polling station again, however the ARO staff will keep this under review.

The process of identifying an alternative building involved exploring all viable options within the surrounding area. Polling district G04 presents limited choices in terms of suitable venues for use as a polling place. The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often do not meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs must provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner. Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is considered excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available.

While Coach Lane Campus does extend across neighbouring boundaries, the section under consideration lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne area. This option would require electors to cross into Manor Park ward. Although this location falls outside the Dene and South Gosforth Ward, Section 18B(2) permits a polling station to be situated outside its polling district if the location "...does not materially affect the convenience of the electors or any body of them."

Ultimately, this is a matter of balancing the suitability of venues found within G04 against the potential benefits of electors travelling slightly beyond the polling district—or even the Local Authority boundary—to access a more appropriate facility.

The ARO staff were unable to speak with the necessary individual at the University to explore this option any further. A site visit to Novocastrians RFC was conducted which considered this building suitable.

Final Recommendation: Novocastrians RFC, Sutherland Park, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7SZ

Polling District: G04

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- Northumbria University, Coach Lane Campus, 15 Coach Lane, NE7 7TR (Preliminary Consultation)
- Novocastrians RFC, Sutherland Park, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7SZ

Comment Received From: Resident of Benton Lodge Avenue

Comment: "It seems ill conceived to suggest Coach Lane campus as it's in a neighbouring council. Another suggestion is using a shop premises at the Four lane ends which really goes to prove that this area is poorly provided for in community spaces. Could we not use St George's church hall as we currently use one of the rooms for Dene and South Gosforth Ward surgeries once a month."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The current polling station that serves this group of electors, "Benton Park Primary School" is currently closed for refurbishment and is likely to remain closed at the time of the 2026 polls. It is currently unknown if after the refurbishment the school will be available to use as a polling station again, however the ARO staff will keep this under review.

The process of identifying an alternative building involved exploring all viable options within the surrounding area. Polling district G04 presents limited choices in terms of suitable venues for use as a polling place. The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often fail to meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs are required to provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner.

Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is deemed excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available.

While Coach Lane Campus does extend across neighbouring boundaries, the section under consideration lies within the Newcastle upon Tyne area. This option would require electors to cross into the adjacent Manor Park ward. Although this location falls outside the Dene and South Gosforth Ward, Section 18B(2) permits a polling station to be situated outside its polling district if the location "...does not materially affect the convenience of the electors or any body of them."

Ultimately, this is a matter of balancing the suitability of venues located within G04 against the potential benefits of electors travelling slightly beyond the polling district—or even the Local Authority boundary—to access a more appropriate facility. The ARO staff were unable to speak with the necessary individual at the University to explore this option any further.

St George's Church is at the far end of the neighbouring polling district and the walking time was around 19 minutes as opposed to 8 minutes to Novocastrians RFC. A site visit determined this building is suitable and is approximately an 8-minute walk from the current polling station.

Final Recommendation: Novocastrians RFC, Sutherland Park, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7SZ

Polling District: G05

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: St Francis Church, 66 Cleveland Gardens, NE7 7QH

Comment Received From: Cllr Wendy Taylor

Comment: "For G05, St George's church is on the boundary of the ward, so not really a problem, but happy to change to St Francis if the church agrees."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received. A site visit to St Francis Church confirmed that this building meets accessibility requirement and is suitably located within the polling district.

Final Recommendation: St Francis Church, 66 Cleveland Gardens, NE7 7QH.

Denton and Westerhope

Polling District: H04

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Westerhope Primary School, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE (Preliminary Consultation)
- Westerhope Community Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Comment Received From: Cllr M Donnelly

Comment: "I have often thought that it was unfair that Westerhope Community Association is not a double polling station to allow residents of Denton and Westerhope to vote, who are literally across the road, as it is some distance to walk to Westerhope Village."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Westerhope Primary was considered; however, it was considered that this building would not be a viable option to use as a polling station.

The ARO has noted comments received. Westerhope Community Association will be used as a double station.

Final Recommendation: Westerhope Community Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Polling District: H04

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Westerhope Primary School, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE (Preliminary Consultation)
- Westerhope Community Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Comment Received From: Mr D Armstrong - Trustee and CEO of Westerhope Community Association

Comment: "Our facilities have been used as a Polling Place for many years and is located with easy access to the main road and bus services. We have adequate parking for those using their own transport and have four disabled spaces. Level access from the car park gives entry to the Polling Room (s) on the ground floor. The building is located conveniently for electors in our ward."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO's decision is to continue with the use of Westerhope Community Association as a polling place. The polling place will also now be used as a double station to make it easier for electors voting in this part of the polling district.

Final Recommendation: Westerhope Community Association, Hillhead Road, NE5 1NE

Jesmond Ward

Polling District: M01

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace, Jesmond, NE2 3AJ
- St Hilda's Church Hall, Thornleigh Road, NE2 3ET

Comment Received From: Cllrs P Allen, P Browne and J Coles

Comment: "West Jesmond Primary School - There are already parking and safety issues at the school at the start and end of the school day, and St Hilda's Church is also marginally more central to the polling district."

Osborne Road already provides a clear north and east boundary to the polling district. Moving Hazelwood Avenue, Tavistock Rd and (part of south side of Osborne Road into M02, whilst slightly closer to the polling station, makes the boundary less distinct and easy to communicate to electors.

The combining of North Jesmond and South Jesmond wards allows opportunity to remove confusion at new southern boundary. Including all of Northam Place, along with Lily Avenue, Lily Crescent, Holly Avenue West and east side of Osborne Road (from Lily Avenue to Haldane Terrace bridge) in M01 creates a distinct boundary that also makes the polling station more accessible for residents in these streets."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Following the comments received from ward councillors, the ARO's decision is to continue with the use of St Hilda's Church Hall as a polling place.

Final Recommendation: St Hilda's Church Hall, Thornleigh Road, NE2 3ET

Polling District: M02

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: St George's Church Hall, St George's Close, NE2 2TF

Comment Received From: Cllrs P Allen, P Browne and J Coles

Comment: "Retaining St George's Church is sensible and retaining existing boundaries to the current S02 makes most sense and are clearly defined on all sides. This would exclude the move of Tavistock Road, Hazelwood Avenue and part of Osborne Road into M02 from current S01."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: These comments have been considered with the final polling district boundaries.

Following the comments received from ward councillors, the ARO's decision is to continue with the use of St George's Church Hall as a polling place.

Final Recommendation: St George's Church Hall, St George's Close, NE2 2TF

Polling District: M03

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: Holy Trinity Church, Churchill Gardens, NE2 1HB

Comment Received From: Cllrs P Allen, P Browne and J Coles

Comment: "Retaining Holy Trinity Church makes sense for M04 (combined with M03). "The western boundary of M04 continues northwards from the back of Akenside Terrace, at end of Clayton Road, along the lane dividing Jesmond Cricket Ground and Osborne Court. Residences to West of new boundary on Osborne Avenue (southside), Osborne Road and Clayton Road becoming part of M05."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: These suggestions have been considered with the final recommendations.

Final Recommendation: Holy Trinity Church, Churchill Gardens, NE2 1HB

Polling District: M04

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: Holy Trinity Church, Churchill Gardens, NE2 1HB

Comment Received From: Cllrs P Allen, P Browne and J Coles

Comment: "Retaining Holy Trinity Church makes sense for M04 (combined with M03). "The western boundary of M04 continues northwards from the back of Akenside Terrace, at end of Clayton Road, along the lane dividing Jesmond Cricket Ground and Osborne Court. Residences to West of new boundary on Osborne Avenue (southside), Osborne Road and Clayton Road becoming part of M05."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: These suggestions have been considered with the final recommendations.

Final Recommendation: Holy Trinity Church, Churchill Gardens, NE2 1HB

Polling District: M05

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation: Jesmond United Reformed Church Hall, Burdon Terrace, NE2 3AE

Comment Received From: Cllrs P Allen, P Browne and J Coles

Comment: "Jesmond United Reformed Church Hall, makes sense. Effective of the proposals to move the eastern boundary along Osbourne Avenue to the lane between Osbourne Court and Jesmond Cricket Club, continuing as original onto back

lane behind Akenside Crescent. Northern boundary from Tankerville Crescent now comes railway lines southwards to Haldane Terrace bridge, then north up Osborne Road and east along Osbourne Avenue."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Following the comments received from ward councillors, the ARO was happy to implement the changes suggested to the polling district boundary.

Final Recommendation: Jesmond United Reformed Church Hall, Burdon Terrace, NE2 3AE

Kingston Park and Dinnington Ward

Polling District: O01

Constituency: Cramlington and Killingworth

Proposal at Consultation: Memorial Institute, Main Hall, Dinnington, NE13 7JW

Comment Received From: Acting Returning Officer Dr Helen Paterson, Northumberland County Council

Comment: "The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. The ARO supports the proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Memorial Institute, Main Hall, Dinnington, NE13 7JW

Polling District: O02

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation: Leisure United Bullocksteads, Ponteland Road, NE13 8AH

Comment Received From: Acting Returning Officer Dr Helen Paterson, Northumberland County Council

Comment: "The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. The ARO supports the proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Leisure United Bullocksteads, Ponteland Road, NE13 8AH

Lemington Ward

Polling District: P01

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: The Lemington Centre, Tyne View, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8RZ

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "I agree with the proposal"

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I have no issues with this proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: The Lemington Centre, Tyne View, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8RZ

Polling District: P02

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Waverley Primary School, Maple Close, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7QZ

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "I agree with the proposal"

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I have no issues with this proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Waverley Primary School, Maple Close, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7QZ

Polling District: P03

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Temp unit
- The Vallum, Moorcroft Road, NE15 7RG

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "I agree with the proposal of continued use of The Vallum. I hope arrangements will be put in place with the management of the Vallum to ensure people using the car park are not at risk of receiving a parking ticket. (parking eye type of system in place)."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often fail to meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs are required to provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner.

Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is deemed excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available. The ARO therefore felt that the use of The Vallum is suitable to serve the electors in this polling district.

Comments regarding the parking has been noted and this is something ARO staff will investigate.

Final Recommendation: The Vallum, Moorcroft Road, NE15 7RG

Polling District: P03

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Temp unit
- The Vallum, Moorcroft Road, NE15 7RG

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I have no issues with this proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often fail to meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs are required to provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner.

Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is deemed excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available. The ARO therefore felt that the use of The Vallum is suitable to serve the electors in this polling district.

Final Recommendation: The Vallum, Moorcroft Road, NE15 7RG

Polling District: P04

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Temp unit
- Lemington Football Club, West Denton Road, NE15 7LQ

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "Whilst I welcome the fact that the polling station is now proposed to be moved from the Vallum public house into the PO4 district, the proposed location at the football club on West Denton Road will still result in significant problems for many residents of central Lemington (PO4). The topography of PO4, is on a very steep incline with no direct access to the proposed polling station for many. I much preferred the original suggestion in the pre-consultation of using a portable polling station in front of the shops at the Crossway once again. This is a much more central location within the polling district and will enhance accessibility for all those residents wishing to exercise their right to vote."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response:

The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often fail to meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs are required to provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner.

Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is deemed excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available.

The steep and varied terrain in Lemington has been noted, however, it is unfortunately not feasible to provide a polling station that is fully accessible to every resident. As a result, some members of the electorate may need to navigate uphill or downhill routes to reach their designated location. I recognise that this may present challenges for some individuals, however, residents of Lemington are generally familiar with the area's topography and accustomed to its unique landscape.

Final Recommendation: Lemington Football Club, West Denton Road, NE15 7LQ

Polling District: P04

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- Temp unit
- Lemington Football Club, West Denton Road, NE15 7LQ

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I appreciate that the polling station has moved from the Vallum which has been used for a few years now, however I am slightly concerned at the proposal to use the football club. Lemington is on a very steep hill, and I have concerns about residents from the bottom of the polling district having to walk up to the top of the hill to vote. There is a lot of bungalows at the bottom of the polling district, and I believe it would be difficult for the elderly to get to this proposed location by foot. I preferred the original suggestion in the pre-consultation of using a portable polling station in front of the shops at the Crossway. This is more central to the polling district."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO is opposed to the use of temporary units, as they often fail to meet essential accessibility standards. Under the Elections Act 2022, AROs are required to provide sufficient space to carry out ID checks in a private and secure manner.

Additionally, the cost of hiring a standard temporary unit typically exceeds £3,000, which is deemed excessive. As such, temporary units will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no suitable alternatives are available.

The steep and varied terrain in Lemington has been noted, however, it is unfortunately not feasible to provide a polling station that is fully accessible to every resident. As a result, some members of the electorate may need to navigate uphill or downhill routes to reach their designated location. I recognise that this may present challenges for some individuals, however, residents of Lemington are generally familiar with the area's topography and accustomed to its unique landscape.

Final Recommendation: Lemington Football Club, West Denton Road, NE15 7LQ

Polling District: P05

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Valley View Sports Pavilion, Valley View, Lemington, NE15 8BB

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "I agree with the proposal."

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I have no issues with this proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Valley View Sports Pavilion, Valley View, Lemington, NE15 8BB

Polling District: P06

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Blucher Methodist Church, Blucher Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 9SH

Comment Received From: Cllr B Phillipson

Comment: "I agree with the proposal."

Comment Received From: Cllr S Barry Stanners

Comment: "I have no issues with this proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Blucher Methodist Church, Blucher Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 9SH

Newbiggin Hall and Callerton Ward

Polling District: S01

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation: The Conservatory, The Poachers Cottage, Armstrong Street, NE5 1NQ

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: "The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. The ARO supports the proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: The Conservatory, The Poachers Cottage, Armstrong Street, NE5 1NQ

Ouseburn Ward

Polling District: T01, T02, T03, T04, T05, T06 and T07

Constituency: East and Wallsend, North and Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Not applicable to comment

Comment Received From: Cllr Chisholm

Comment: "Provisions for all disabilities including blind or partially sighted voters be explored."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Specific work around accessibility of elections has been a major part of the review process. The Electoral Services team are working closely with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) to understand the barriers facing electors with sight loss.

An outreach event was held in July 2025 with several electors from across the city who are registered as blind. RNIB and Electoral Services facilitated the event which opened up an honest discussion with electors and electoral administrators to identify typical barriers that electors face as well as areas of improvement.

Final Recommendation: Not applicable to comment

Polling District: T01, T02, T03, T04, T05, T06 and T07

Constituency: East and Wallsend, North and Central and West

Proposal at Consultation: Not applicable to comment

Comment Received From: The Green Party agent Andrew Grey

Comment: The Green Party agent queried why some wards had been split into more polling districts than currently exist.

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: In some cases, polling districts are created to ensure that parish council areas are kept separate. Likewise, this is the case where parliamentary boundaries are shared with neighbouring authorities.

The ARO must also ensure that each polling station remains within the recommended limit for the number of electors assigned to it. Assigning a larger electorate to a single polling station would require additional poll clerks, however, since poll clerks have a limited scope of responsibilities, it is often more effective to establish separate polling districts and stations to maintain efficiency and compliance. This approach gives the ARO more flexibility in the event of larger turnouts.

Final Recommendation: Not applicable to comment

Polling District: T02, T07

Constituency: East and Wallsend, Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

- St Vincent de Paul Society, St Vincent's Newcastle, New Bridge Street, NE1 2TQ
- Shieldfield Art Works, 1 Clarence Street, Shieldfield, NE2 1YH

Comment Received From: Cllr M Cookson

Comment: "Preference would be to use Shieldfield Art Works instead of St Vincent de Paul as a double station."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO notes the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Shieldfield Art Works, 1 Clarence Street, Shieldfield, NE2 1YH

Polling District: T05, T06

Constituency: North

Proposal at Consultation:

- St Catherine's RC Primary, Greystoke Gardens, NE2 1PS
- St Andrew's Church of Scotland, 13 Grantham Road, NE2 1QX

Comment Received From: Cllr D Huddart

Comment: "Parking outside the polling station is quite limited as the front of the building is a bus route. Parking is available to the side of the building but is limited". Cllr Huddart felt that any electors who could only walk a short distance may find accessing the premises difficult. She acknowledged that the premises had a lift which voters used with polling station staff assistance.

(Acting) Returning Officer Response:

St Catherine's Primary School was considered but it was deemed that this building would not be a viable option to use as a polling station.

ARO has noted the comments received relating to parking at St Andrew's Church of Scotland.

Final Recommendation: St Andrew's Church of Scotland, 13 Grantham Road, NE2 1QX

Throckley, Walbottle and Newburn Ward

Polling District: V01

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation:

- Newburn Library, High Street, Newburn, NE15 8LN
- Newburn Parish Hall, Station Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8LS

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: Supports the proposal for either Newburn Library or Newburn Parish Hall.

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: ARO has noted the comments received.

Final Recommendation: Newburn Parish Hall, Station Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8LS

Polling District: V02

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation:

- Throckley Primary School, Hexham Road, NE15 9DY
- Throckley and District Bank Top Club, Hexham Road, NE15 9DU

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: “Newcastle City Council has confirmed Throckley and District Bank Top Club is accessible and a suitable location for a polling place. The ARO supports the proposal for Throckley and District Bank Top Club being the designated polling place.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The initial proposal of Throckley Primary School, was discounted as the school couldn’t accommodate the request.

A site visit to Throckley and District Bank Top Club was conducted and deemed this building suitable to be used as a polling place.

Comments from Cllr L Wright during consultation resulted in further changes to the polling district boundaries within this ward. The proposed V02 during consultation has since been halved to create two smaller polling districts. South of Hexham Road will form V02 polling district and North of Hexham Road will form polling district V03.

Final Recommendation: (V02) - Throckley and District Bank Top Club, Hexham Road, NE15 9DU
(V03) - Throckley and District Bank Top Club, Hexham Road, NE15 9DU

Polling District: V03

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation:

- Throckley Community Hall, Back Victoria Terrace, NE15 9AA

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: “The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. Both polling districts are within the Hexham parliamentary constituency. The ARO supports the proposal.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Comments from Dr H Paterson have been noted.

Comments from Cllr L Wright during consultation resulted in further changes to the polling district boundaries within this ward. The proposed V03 during consultation has since been change slightly to incorporate more properties and re-numbered to be referenced as V04.

Final Recommendation: (V04) - Throckley Community Hall, Back Victoria Terrace, NE15 9AA

Polling District: V04

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation: Walbottle Village Institute, The Green, Walbottle NE15 8JE

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: "The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. Polling districts V02 and V06 are in different parliamentary constituencies which have different count locations.

Robust arrangements will need to be in place to ensure postal votes and ballot papers do not inadvertently go to the wrong count venue. In the absence of an alternative within the relevant constituency, the ARO supports the proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO notes the comments received. Any stations where there are different constituencies in the same polling place, will have robust arrangements in place to ensure that all votes get to the correct count venue. The numbering of the districts within this ward have also changed since consultation.

During consultation this district was referenced as V04 but will now be referenced as V06.

Final Recommendation: (V06) - Walbottle Village Institute, The Green, Walbottle NE15 8JE

Polling District: V05

Constituency: Hexham

Proposal at Consultation: Throckley Community Hall, Back Victoria Terrace, NE15 9AA

Comment Received From: Dr Helen Paterson ARO at Northumberland County Council

Comment: "The venue was used as a polling place for the UKPGE in July 2024 and did not receive any negative feedback. Both polling districts are within the Hexham parliamentary constituency. The ARO supports the proposal."

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO notes the comments received.

Since consultation there has been no change to this polling district and will remain referenced as V05.

Final Recommendation: (V05) - Throckley Community Hall, Back Victoria Terrace, NE15 9AA

Polling District: V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06 & V07

Constituency: Hexham, Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

V01 - Newburn Library

V02 - Throckley and District Bank Top Club

V03 - Throckley Community Hall

V04 - Walbottle Village Institute

V05 - Throckley Community Hall

V06 - Walbottle Village Institute

Comment Received From: Cllr L Wright

Comment: Concerns over the proposal of using Newburn Library and Throckley and District Bank Top Club.

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: Cllr L Wright met with ARO staff to discuss her concerns. This led to further changes to the districts within the ward and changes to the proposed polling places. It should be noted that V07 must be kept as a separate district as this is a different parliamentary constituency.

Final Recommendation:

V01 – Newburn Parish Hall

V02 – Throckley and District Bank Top Club

V03 - Throckley and District Bank Top Club

V04 – Throckley Community Hall

V05 - Throckley Community Hall

V06 – Walbottle Village Institute

V07 – Walbottle Village Institute

West Fenham Ward

Polling District: Y01, Y02, Y03, Y04, Y05 and Y06

Constituency: Central and West

Proposal at Consultation:

Y01 - Denton Burn Community Centre

Y02 - Tyneside Badminton Centre

Y03 - City of Newcastle Silver Linnen

Y04 - English Martyrs Community Centre

Y05 - West End URC Hall

Y06 - West End URC Hall

Comment Received From: Cllr. M Mitchell

Comment: “I wish to object to the proposed polling districts and polling stations proposed for the ward. My objection stems from two principles.

- other than removal of certain properties from the wards, there have been no other changes or additions to the ward.
- Any change in polling stations always causes voter confusion and it is therefore preferable to avoid them if possible. I also note that the proposal does not suggest that any of the existing polling stations are no longer usable and in fact proposes to use them all. I would therefore suggest that there is no need to move from the current Y01-Y04 polling districts and associated polling stations. While this would result in a reduction in voters at one poll, it would otherwise mean that there is minimal disruption to all voters as they would all continue to vote where they have for several years.”

(Acting) Returning Officer Response: The ARO must also ensure that each polling station remains within the recommended limit for the number of electors assigned to it. The Electoral Commission's recommended ratio of electors to polling staff is:

0 – 1,250 Electors (1 Presiding Officer and 2 Poll Clerks)

1,250 – 2,250 Electors (1 Presiding Officer and 3 Poll Clerks)

The proposal to increase the number of polling districts in this ward from four to six is based solely on the current size of the electorate and historic turnout figures.

Y01 - Overall Electorate - 2526 (Current)

Station Electorate – 1590

Y02 - Overall Electorate - 1250 (Current)

Station Electorate - 818

Y03 - Overall Electorate - 2453 (Current)

Station Electorate - 1519

Y04 - Overall Electorate – 2453 (Current)

Station Electorate – 1519

Assigning a larger electorate to a single polling station would require additional poll clerks, however, since poll clerks have a limited scope of responsibilities, it is often more effective to establish separate polling districts and stations to maintain efficiency and compliance. This approach gives the ARO more flexibility in the event of larger turnouts. The additional polling district will have no impact on the electorate within the ward but does give the ARO more flexibility with staffing arrangements.

Final Recommendations:

Y01 - Denton Burn Community Centre (Predicted polling station electorate 594)

Y02 - Denton Burn Community Centre (Predicted polling station electorate 1006)

Y03 – City of Newcastle Silver Lonnen (Predicted polling station electorate 758)

Y04 – English Martyrs Community Centre (Predicted polling station electorate 789)

Y05 – West End URC (Predicted polling station electorate 512)

Y06 – West End URC (Predicted polling station electorate 770)

