

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

Final consultation on the 2023 boundary review

1. The City of Durham Trust welcomes the revised proposals published on 8 November 2022. Almost all of the concerns we raised in our earlier submissions (references BCE-62395 and BCE-91292) have been addressed. We believe that the Commission's latest proposals now significantly protect current and highly valued community ties, and both reflect and protect the way the way that people live their lives.
2. While we regret that it was not possible to include Bowburn and Coxhoe in the City of Durham Constituency, we accept that compromises have to be made in order to comply with the restrictions placed on the Commission by the relevant legislation. Therefore we will not be proposing any further boundary changes at this stage of the consultation.
3. Should others propose changes, we consider it is important that the core area of the constituency is not changed. By *core area* we mean those wards that are included in both the existing and the proposed new constituency.
4. The following are the changes that we proposed which we are pleased to see have been accepted:
 - Keeping Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon, Ushaw Moor, Bearpark and Witton Gilbert in the City of Durham Constituency.
 - Not including Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole and Easington Lane, but including them in the Houghton and Sunderland South Constituency.
 - Not splitting the new Sniperley Park housing development between the North West Durham and the City of Durham constituencies.
5. These are the proposals made by others which we are pleased to see are not being taken forward:
 - Removing Sherburn from the constituency.
 - Removing Durham South from the constituency. This would have split the University campus.
6. While we did not propose these, we are also pleased to see that the village of Esh Winning is now fully in the City of Durham; previously the boundary went through the middle of the village. It is also good that Ushaw College, just to the west of Bearpark, has been incorporated in the City of Durham due to its strong links with the City and the University.

About the City of Durham Trust

7. The City of Durham Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, founded in 1942, whose objects include
 - preserving for the benefit of the public the amenities of the City of Durham and Framwelgate and its surroundings
 - preserving and maintaining public rights of way in the neighbourhood of Durham

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- encouraging public co-operation in the protection of objects of natural beauty and interest, and buildings of architectural or historical value
 - assisting the development of urban or rural community life
 - organising exhibitions, publishing pamphlets and other like literary works
 - initiating or taking part in meetings and lectures or social events having these objects in view.
8. The Trust has around 400 members, over 80% of whom live in the City of Durham or its vicinity. Most of the remainder retain an affinity with Durham despite having moved away. Beyond the formal membership there is widespread public support for the Trust based on the shared community in which we live.
 9. By resolution of its 1974 AGM the Trust's area of concern is that of the former City of Durham District Council, which covered the same area as that of the present City of Durham parliamentary constituency.
 10. The Trust participates in consultations where it feels it has a contribution to make in pursuance of its objectives and where it has a relevant local perspective. There is a list of recent responses on the Trust website at <https://durhamcity.org/our-work/consultations/> In doing so we aim to enlist the support of the MP for the City. It is helpful that there is a recognisable community to which the Trust and the MP can relate. We believe that this is something any boundary revision should aim to preserve.
 11. Like the Boundary Commission for England, the Trust is a politically independent and impartial body. Our concern in making these comments is to preserve any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies, and to avoid the inconveniences attendant on such changes. We have a local perspective and we are here drawing attention to factors that might have escaped the Commission operating, as it does, at a national level.