



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR) 2025 Pre-consultation Questionnaire

Parish, Town, and Community Councils of Northumberland County Council



Electoral Services (CGR)
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1. Introduction to the Review

Throughout this document, we refer to ‘**parishes**’, which include Parish, Town, and Community Councils.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process for Principal Councils to make sure that the governance arrangements for parish councils are working as efficiently and effectively as they should be. The process provides an opportunity to review and make changes through consultation with those living in the Review area, and other interested groups, to have a say in how their local communities are represented.

Government guidance states that it is good practice for Principal Councils to conduct a Review of their area at least every 10 to 15 years and keep the area under review. Since the structural changes to local government in 2009, Northumberland County Council (NCC) has not conducted a county-wide CGR of its parishes and Parish Councils.

NCC has resolved to undertake a county-wide CGR to consider its parish and parish ward boundaries, and the electoral arrangements (including warding and the allocations of councillors) of its Parish Councils. A Review will ensure that there is clarity and transparency in the areas that these Councils represent and that the electoral arrangements are appropriate, equitable, and understood by their electorate.

2. The Review process

During September to November 2025, local briefings with interested parties will be held. This will be followed by a full statutory consultation process from February to September 2026 to take account of the views of the local government electors for the area and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review. The Review is scheduled to conclude in November 2026 with final consideration of submissions received and full approval of the recommendations by Council.

3. Preliminary Stage (September to 30 November 2025)

To gauge the scope of the Review and understand the needs of our community governance, we are allowing the opportunity for our Parish Councils to complete the attached pre-consultation questionnaire. Completion of this pre-consultation questionnaire does not constitute a formal submission and will only be used by NCC to help understand the extent and range of the Review.

When completing the questionnaire, please refer to the separate document – **Current Electoral Arrangements for the Parishes in Northumberland**, which provides warding, membership, quorum, and council style details for each parish.

If you require any further information about the Review, please contact us at:

Email: CGR@northumberland.gov.uk

Telephone: 01670 624811 (Annie Howliston)

1. Your status

Please fill out a separate questionnaire for each Parish you are representing

I am completing this questionnaire as: (select **one** option only)

☒

Parish Clerk

☐

Parish Councillor

2. Parish area

Which parish does your submission relate to? (select **one** option only)

A

☐

Acklington

☐

Acomb

☐

Adderstone with Lucker

☐

Akeld

☐

Allendale

☐

Alnham

☐

Alnmouth

☐

Alnwick

☐

Alwinton

☐

Amble

☐

Ancroft

☐

Ashington

B

☐

Bamburgh

☐

Bardon Mill

☐

Bavington

☐

Beadnell

☐

Belford

☐

Bellingham

☐

Belsay

☐

Berwick upon Tweed

☐

Bewick

☐

Biddlestone

☐

Birtley

☐

Blanchland

☒

Blyth

☐

Bowsden

☐

Branxton

☐

Brinkburn

☐

Broomhaugh and Riding

☐

Bywell

C

☐

Callaly

☐

Capheaton

☐

Carham

☐

Chatton

☐

Chillingham

☐

Chollerton

☐

Choppington

☐

Coanwood

☐

Corbridge

☐

Cornhill on Tweed

☐

Corsenside

☐

Cramlington

☐

Craster

☐

Cresswell

D

- ☐ Denwick
- ☐ Doddington

- ☐ Duddo

E

- ☐ Earle
- ☐ East Bedlington
- ☐ East Chevington
- ☐ Edlingham
- ☐ Eglington

- ☐ Ellingham
- ☐ Ellington and Linton
- ☐ Elsdon
- ☐ Embleton
- ☐ Ewart

F

- ☐ Falstone
- ☐ Featherstone

- ☐ Felton
- ☐ Ford

G

- ☐ Glanton

- ☐ Greenhead

H

- ☐ Haltwhistle
- ☐ Harbottle
- ☐ Hartburn
- ☐ Hartleyburn
- ☐ Hauxley
- ☐ Haydon
- ☐ Healey
- ☐ Hebron
- ☐ Heddou on the Wall
- ☐ Hedgeley
- ☐ Hedley

- ☐ Henshaw
- ☐ Hepple
- ☐ Hepscott
- ☐ Hesleyhurst
- ☐ Hexham
- ☐ Hexhamshire
- ☐ Hollinghill
- ☐ Holy Island
- ☐ Horncliffe
- ☐ Horsley
- ☐ Humshaugh

I

- ☐ Ilderton

- ☐ Ingram

K

- ☐ Kielder
- ☐ Kilham
- ☐ Kirknewton

- ☐ Kirkwhelpington
- ☐ Knarsdale with Kirkhaugh
- ☐ Kyloe

L

- ☐ Lesbury
- ☐ Lilburn
- ☐ Longframlington
- ☐ Longhirst

- ☐ Longhorsley
- ☐ Longhoughton
- ☐ Lowick
- ☐ Lynemouth

M

- ☐ Matfen
- ☐ Meldon
- ☐ Melkridge

- ☐ Milfield
- ☐ Mitford
- ☐ Morpeth

N

- ☐ Netherton
- ☐ Netherwitton
- ☐ Netherton
- ☐ Netherwitton
- ☐ Newbiggin by the Sea
- ☐ Newbrough

- ☐ Newton by the Sea
- ☐ Newton on the Moor & Swarland
- ☐ Norham
- ☐ North Sunderland
- ☐ Nunnykirk

O

- ☐ Ord
- ☐ Otterburn

- ☐ Ovingham
- ☐ Ovington

P

- ☐ Pegswood
- ☐ Plenmeller with Whitfield

- ☐ Ponteland
- ☐ Prudhoe

R

- ☐ Rennington
- ☐ Rochester
- ☐ Roddam

- ☐ Rothbury
- ☐ Rothley

S

- ☐ Sandhoe
- ☐ Seaton Valley
- ☐ Shilbottle
- ☐ Shoreswood
- ☐ Shotley Low Quarter
- ☐ Simonburn

- ☐ Slaley
- ☐ Snitter
- ☐ Stamfordham
- ☐ Stannington
- ☐ Stocksfield

T

- ☐ Tarset and Greystead
- ☐ Thirlwall
- ☐ Thirston

- ☐ Thropton
- ☐ Togston
- ☐ Tritlington & West Chevington

U

- ☐ Ulgham

W

- ☐ Wall
- ☐ Wallington Demesne
- ☐ Warden
- ☐ Wark
- ☐ Warkworth
- ☐ West Allen
- ☐ West Bedlington
- ☐ Whalton

- ☐ Whittingham
- ☐ Whittington
- ☐ Whitton & Tosson
- ☐ Widdrington Station & Stobswood
- ☐ Widdrington Village
- ☐ Wooler
- ☐ Wylam

3. Current number of councillors representing the Parish Council

- Every Parish Council must have a minimum of five councillors.
- There is no maximum number.
- There are no rules relating to the allocation of councillors between parish wards.
- Parishes grouped under a **Common Parish Council** must have at least one councillor representing each separate parish area.

Do you feel that the Parish Council has (select **one** option only):

- ☒ The right number of councillors
- ☐ Too many councillors
- ☐ Not enough councillors

4. Current warding arrangements

Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors.

(Select **one** option as appropriate from either column A or B).

A.

The parish is UN-WARDED and:

☐ Would like to remain un-warded

☐ Would like to be warded

B.

The parish is WARDED and:

☒ Would like to remain warded

☐ Would like to be un-warded

5. Current grouped parishes

This is where one or more parishes are grouped under a single **Common Parish Council**.

- Each parish area continues to elect its own parish councillors
- Decisions are made by all councillors representing the **Common Parish Council**.
- Parishes shall not be grouped without the consent of the Parish Meeting of each of the parishes in the proposed group.

(Select **one** option as appropriate from either column A or B).

A.

The parish is NOT GROUPED and:

☒ Would like to remain un-grouped

☐ Would like to be grouped

B.

The parish is GROUPED and:

☐ Would like to remain grouped

☐ Would like to be un-grouped

6. Boundary changes

Over time, communities may expand with new housing developments, which can lead to existing parish or ward boundaries becoming unfamiliar. Making changes to the boundaries is often sufficient to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

Do you feel that the parish or parish ward boundaries need altering?

(select **one** option only):

☒ No

☐ Yes

7. New Parishes

Setting up parishes and Parish Councils clearly offers the opportunity to strengthen community engagement and participation and generate a positive impact on community cohesion. The Review can make recommendations about any new parishes being constituted in the local authority area. These can include:

- Combining parts of existing parishes
- Combining two or more existing parishes
- Separating parts of a parish or parishes

Do you feel that your current parish arrangement (select **one** option only):

- ☒ Does not need changing
- ☐ Should be combined with another parish
- ☐ Should be separated

8. Viability

The government commits to improving the capacity of the parish structure to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests. Parishes should be viable and should possess a precept that enables them to effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas economically and efficiently.

Do you have any concerns over the continued viability of your parish?
(select **one** option only):

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes

How to return your questionnaire

Please return your completed questionnaire as soon as practicably possible and no later than the deadline of **30 November 2025**.

Email:
CGR@northumberland.gov.uk

Post (pre-paid envelope included):
Community Governance Review (Parish)
Elections Office
Northumberland County Council
Morpeth
NE61 2EF