

---

**FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW –  
WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader**

**Responsible Director – Ada Burns, Chief Executive**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the joint proposals from the Conservative and Labour Groups for the warding arrangements for Darlington, for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**Summary**

2. The Council have been given the opportunity to make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on the future warding arrangements for Darlington. The deadline for receipt of submissions to the LGBCE is 10 December 2013.
3. As part of the second stage of the review, the Labour and Conservative Groups have considered the warding arrangements for Darlington and have proposed a total of 22 wards, 4 rural wards and 18 urban wards, containing between one and three councillors. Their proposed submission is attached at **Appendix 1**.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Council consider whether to adopt the proposed warding arrangements for Darlington, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, for submission to the LGBCE, as this Council's submission.

**Reasons**

5. To enable Members to consider the proposed warding arrangements prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**Ada Burns**  
**Chief Executive**

**Background Papers**

Guidance from the Local Government Boundary Commission  
Catherine Whitehead : Extension 2306

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	There are no specific implications for Health and Wellbeing
Carbon Impact	The Carbon Impact of Council Member size is minimal.
Diversity	There are no specific diversity issues other than those reflected in the submission in relation to the diversity of Council membership.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	Members
Budget and Policy Framework	This does not represent a change for the Budget and Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is not an executive decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an executive decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The proposal is that the role of Members to help deliver the Councils core strategy will be enhanced.
Efficiency	There is a small efficiency in the reduction of Members proposed in this report.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **Background**

6. The Council were informed by the LGBCE, that they had decided to carry out a Further Electoral Review (FER) in Darlington, as it had one ward, Faverdale, with an electoral variance of more than 30%, from the average number of electorate per councillor. The review commenced in March 2013. The first stage of the review, which was considered by Council on 2 May 2013, recommended a Council Size of 50 Councillors for the Council. The Council's recommendation was subsequently agreed by the LGBCE.
7. The second stage of the review is to consider the warding arrangements for Darlington. Both the Labour Group and Conservative Group have considered the warding arrangements for Darlington and have proposed a total of 22 wards, 4 rural wards and 18 urban wards, containing between one and three Councillors.
8. The Borough is projected to have an electorate of 82,541 by 2019. Based on this projected electorate and the on the Council Size of 50 councillors, the average number of electorate that each councillor is expected to represent is 1,651. The variance for each ward can be no higher than 10%.
9. The submission from the Labour and Conservative Groups, based on the projected electorate and average number of electorate per councillor, as detailed in paragraph 8 above, is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Consultation**

10. The LGBCE is undertaking the consultation for the review and other submissions on the warding arrangements for Darlington can be submitted to them from other political groups, interested individuals, etc by their deadline of 10 December 2013.