
REFERENDUM

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor John Williams, Leader

Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is :-
 - (a) To consider the results of the consultation;
 - (b) To decide on the form of mayoral arrangement to be put to the referendum;
 - (c) To approve the proposals which are to be submitted to the Secretary of State; and
 - (d) To decide on the programme of awareness raising and the arrangements for the conduct of the referendum.

Background

2. Members received reports on the referendum on 21 March 2007 and 18th May 2007. A referendum will take place on 27th September 2007. The consultation on the form of mayoral arrangements was carried out between 21st May and 15th June 2007. This report considers the remaining stages of the preparation for the referendum.

Format of Report

3. This report will deal with the following issues:-
 - (a) Part 1: The Outcome of the Consultation.
 - (b) Part 2: The Proposals.
 - (c) Part 3: The awareness raising.
 - (d) Part 4: The conduct of the referendum.

Part 1: Outcome of Consultation

4. Full details of the consultation results are set out in the report attached at **Appendix 1 with appendices**. These results will be attached to the proposals which will be submitted to the Secretary of State. The key outcomes from the consultation are :-
 - (a) The Elected Mayor and Cabinet was the favoured Mayoral option to be included in the referendum with 76% of respondents preferring this option.
 - (b) The majority of respondents (55%) were in favour of a directly elected Mayor retaining the same level of decision making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader with 38% against and 7% did not answer or not sure.

- (c) The majority at 48% were against the name Chairman for a councillor who might carry out the ceremonial duties whilst 40% were in favour. The remaining 12% did not answer or were not sure.

Part 2: The Proposals

- 5. The Council must submit proposals to the Secretary of State no later than two months before the referendum, i.e. by 26th July 2007. The proposals must:-
 - (a) Identify the mayoral form of Executive to be put to the referendum;
 - (b) A description of the roles of the executive including which local choice functions are to be the responsibility of the executive under the proposed executive arrangements;
 - (c) A description of the roles of the authority itself under the proposed executive arrangements including which plans and strategies are to be subject to approval or adoption by the authority;
 - (d) A description of the proposed arrangements for the operation of overview and scrutiny committees to be included in the proposed executive arrangements; and
 - (e) A description of such other features of the proposed executive arrangements as the authority decides to include in the proposals.
- 6. The draft proposals will also include a statement about the Council's current arrangements which are called the 'fall back proposals'. The proposals must include the results of the consultation and a statement about how the consultation has been taken into consideration when the proposals were agreed.
- 7. Although the proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of State, there is no acceptance period, and the Secretary of State has not previously intervened to alter proposals that have been submitted by other authorities.

The Mayoral Model

- 8. The decision about which form of mayoral arrangements to put to the referendum and submit as part of the proposals rests with the Council.
- 9. There are two models to choose from :-
 - The Mayor and Council Manager; and
 - The Mayor and Cabinet
- 10. The Mayor and Council Manager option will be abolished if the Public Involvement in Health Bill is implemented. The effect of that Bill will be to require the authority to agree to move from a Mayor and Council Manager (if that model has been adopted) to a Mayor and Cabinet by resolution before the end of December 2010. Failure to pass such a resolution within the prescribed timescales, will result in an automatic change by statute (this is provided for in the current Bill). The new model must be implemented in May 2011. The Council Manager would then cease to be employed, but the Mayor would

continue to hold office under the new model and a Cabinet would be appointed. (This refers to the Bill in the House of Lords 29th May 2007 but is subject to amendment).

11. In the Consultation people were asked to select their preferred mayoral option. In total 909 responses were received. The Elected Mayor and Cabinet was the favoured Mayoral option to be included in the referendum with 76% of respondents preferring this option.
12. The Mayor and Council Manager model is to be abolished which will result in the possible redundancy costs of both the current Chief Executive and the Council Manager in 2010. It cannot make economic sense to opt for a Mayor and Council Manager option, and this is clearly supported by the results from the consultation.
13. Officers recommend that the Council puts forward the Mayor and Cabinet model to the referendum.

The Form of Arrangements

14. The proposals to be submitted to the Secretary of State must also include the form of mayoral arrangements to be put to the referendum. If the referendum results in a 'yes' vote, these arrangements will be implemented in May 2008. There is no opportunity to further amend the arrangements as set out in the proposals before implementation, although the proposals are outline only and it will be necessary to add detail and draw up a new constitution before implementation. If the referendum results in a 'yes' vote and a Mayor is elected Council itself or the elected Mayor through Council could amend the arrangements shortly after implementation.
15. There are three broad options that were explored as part of the consultation. These were adopting:-
 - (a) The current arrangements with the new form of mayoral executive.
 - (b) A form of arrangement which sought to restrict the powers of the elected Mayor by ensuring that more decisions would need to be taken in full Council and increased opportunity for scrutiny.
 - (c) A form of arrangement which sought to enable the elected Mayor to make decisions easily and with the least impediment and scrutiny.
16. The majority of respondents (55%) were in favour of a directly elected mayor retaining the same level of decision making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader with 38% against and 7% did not answer or not sure. A focus group session was also held to explore in detail whether there should be any changes to full council meetings, the policy framework, and overview and scrutiny arrangements and to key decisions. In general the conclusions of the consultation were that the operation of Full Council, the Policy Framework, Scrutiny and Key Decisions should remain as they are currently. The only change which gained clear support was making it easier for the public to ask questions at Council. A summary of the results is set out in Appendix 1. Making it easier for the public to ask questions at Council has been picked up and addressed with changes to the current arrangements which are explained fully in another Report to this meeting.
17. In reaching a decision about these options the Council must consider the extent to which the proposals, if implemented, are likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the authority's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of

economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The aim behind the new executive arrangements was to ensure that decisions of the authority are taken in an efficient, transparent and accountable way. Council will need to ensure that the arrangements described in the proposals achieve an appropriate balance between these competing demands.

18. Currently the majority of decisions are made by Leader and Cabinet. If a Mayor is elected a form of arrangement which restricts the power of the elected Mayor, by ensuring that more decisions would need to be taken by full Council, is likely to slow down decision making. It would also make it more difficult to see who is responsible for those decisions when they are made jointly by all councillors. A system which is likely to make it easy for the elected Mayor to make and implement decisions, would be efficient and it would be clear who was making the decision. However, there would be limitations on the ability of Councillors, to challenge decisions of the elected Mayor and to scrutinise those decisions.
19. The current arrangements were drawn up with a view to achieving an appropriate balance. Officers recommend that the current arrangements should sit alongside the elected Mayor and Cabinet form of executive in relation to the key areas required by the regulations as follows:-

- (a) *A description of the roles of the executive including which local choice functions are to be the responsibility of the executive under the proposed executive arrangements;*

That the local choice functions are to be those detailed in the current constitution and that these be attached to the proposals to be submitted to the secretary of state

- (b) *A description of the roles of the authority itself under the proposed executive arrangements including which plans and strategies are to be subject to approval or adoption by the authority;*

That the policy framework is to be that set out in the current constitution

- (c) *A description of the proposed arrangements for the operation of overview and scrutiny committees to be included in the proposed executive arrangements;*

That the current arrangements for overview and scrutiny should be put forward as part of the proposals

- (d) *A description of such other features of the proposed executive arrangements as the authority may determine to include in the proposals.*

The draft proposals also include details of the role of Council, the regulatory and other committees, and a timetable for implementation.

The draft proposals are attached at **Appendix 2**.

Ceremonial Mayor

20. If a referendum results in a 'yes' vote, the ceremonial mayor will not exist under the new arrangements, and therefore it is recommended that another Councillor should chair council meetings. The Councillor can also carry out the ceremonial duties of the mayor or ceremonial duties can be carried out by someone other than the chair. There is no

requirement to decide on roles and responsibilities at this meeting, and they can await the outcome of the referendum.

21. The consultation included the following question:-

If another Councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman?

22. The response to this question was mixed, with some agreeing and some disagreeing. The majority at 48% were against the name Chairman for a councillor who might carry out the ceremonial duties whilst 40% were in favour. The remaining 12% did not answer or were not sure. The full results are set out in the document attached at Appendix 1.

23. In summary, most people, who expressed a view, did not want the title to be chairman. There were a number of suggestions for an alternative. The following suggestions were received for the title of a councillor carrying out chairing and ceremonial duties.

Title	Alternatives	Comment
Alderman (Co-opted member of an English County or Borough Council, next in dignity to the Mayor)		Most popular alternative in NWA survey, second most in Council survey. Is already used as an honour, which may cause confusion.
Bailiff (King's representative in a district including mayor, sheriff, etc)	Bailly, High Bailiff, Upper Bailiff, Ceremonial Bailiff	Widely used as a title for representatives of the court executing a summons, and therefore associated with debt collection
Chairman	Chair, Chairperson	Some people commented it was not gender neutral. Although the majority of those who expressed a view did not want the title Chairman, more people said yes to this option, than any other option.
Chamberlain (officer managing household of a sovereign or great noble)	Lord Chamberlain	
Council Representative	Council Elect, Darlington Representative, Councillor, Chief Councillor, Civic Representative, Town Representative	
Elder (member of senate, official in early Christian Church)		
Emissary (person sent on an odious or underhand		

mission)		
First Citizen (many Council's describe the Mayor as the First Citizen)	Darlington First Citizen, Ceremonial First Citizen,	The most popular alternative in the responses to the Council, and second most in responses to NWA.
Leader		Potential for confusion with role of Leader of a political group which will continue even if a Mayor is elected
Master of Ceremonies (acts as host at formal occasions, theatrical events)	Master of Ceremonial, Mistress of Ceremonies, Ceremony Leader, Civil Events Facilitator	Not gender neutral
Mayor (Head of Municipal Corporation in City or Borough)	Ceremonial Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Civic Mayor, Honorary Mayor, Town Mayor, Lord Mayor, The Mayor's representative,	The title of Mayor cannot be used by anyone other than the Elected Mayor. The exception to this is the Deputy Mayor, who will carry out the role in the absence of the Elected Mayor.
People Spokesperson (one who speaks for others)		Elected Mayor is strictly the Council's spokesperson, under a Council operating mayoral executive arrangements.
President (head of body of persons, presiding over their meetings and proceedings)	Mr President, President of the Council	
Principal (first in rank or importance)		
Provost (Head of Scottish Municipal Corporation)		
Senior Director (Manager, Member of a Managing Board)		Potential for confusion with officers of the Council
Sheriff (chief officer of crown in county or shire, charged with the keeping of the peace, administering justice, presiding over elections)		
Speaker (one who speaks in public, presiding officer in House of Commons and House of Representatives)		Used in Middlesbrough for a short period before the introduction of the Elected Mayor
Standard Bearer (soldier		

who carries the standard, prominent leader in a cause)		
Steward (person entrusted with the management of another's property)	Town Steward,	
Town Burgher (Freeman or Citizen of the Borough)	Freeman	

24. Although the majority of people did not feel the title of Chairman was appropriate, there were still more people who thought it was appropriate than any other title. It was however the only title that was actually suggested as part of the question so this is not a genuine comparison. The favourite alternatives to Chairman were First Citizen and Alderman.
25. There is no requirement to make a decision about the title of the chairman or about any ceremonial duties. In the absence of a decision the default title for the person who presides at Council will be Chair. The results of the consultation are not clear on this issue, as a decision is not required at this stage, it is open to Members to defer this decision until after the referendum when, if necessary, further consultation on the range of options can be carried out.

Submission of the Proposals

26. The full set of Proposals is attached to this report, and must be approved, subject to any amendments at this meeting, to ensure that they can be submitted prior to 26th July 2007.
27. Once the proposals have been submitted a notice must be published which includes:
- (a) a statement that proposals have been sent to the Secretary of State;
 - (b) a description of the main features of the proposals and of the outline fall-back proposals (attached at **Appendix 2**);
 - (c) notice that a referendum will be held, the date on which it will be held, and the question to be asked in the referendum;
 - (d) a statement that the referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections (rather than all postal);
 - (e) a statement of the referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum, and of the number of local government electors by reference to which that limit has been calculated;
 - (f) a statement of the address and times at which a copy of the proposals, and of the local authority's outline fall-back proposals, may be inspected; and
 - (g) a description of the procedures for obtaining a copy of the proposals and outline fall-back proposals.
28. A further notice making the same statements must be published not less than 55 days before the referendum and not later than 28 days before the referendum (sometime after 3rd August 2007 and before 31st August). A timetable of the mandatory notices leading to the referendum is included at **Appendix 5**.

The Referendum Period

29. The referendum period begins on the date that the proposals are submitted to the Secretary of State. From this date local authorities must take care not to issue or publish material which deals with controversial issues, or matters which might reasonably be thought to affect public opinion in relation to the referendum or the local authority itself.

Part 3: The Awareness Raising

30. Although the Council is restricted to balanced information and cannot be seen to try to influence the outcome of the referendum it will have an important role to play in raising awareness about the two forms of executive arrangements and about the way the Council currently operates. It has an obligation to ensure that those taking part in the referendum understand the two options in the referendum. They are Mayor and Cabinet and the current arrangements (Leader and Cabinet).
31. The Council will also need to devote time and resources to ensuring a good turnout at the referendum. This will include a programme of advertising and promotion to encourage applications to be included on the register of electors, to obtain a postal or proxy vote where electors chose to do so and on the availability of polling stations on the day of the referendum itself. A programme of activity for the awareness raising on the referendum question and the referendum itself is described in **Appendix 3**.

Part 4: The Conduct of the Referendum

32. Members agreed at the Council meeting held on 18th May, 2007 that the Referendum should be conducted using an all postal ballot until that option was removed by legislation. On 9th July 2007 draft Regulations were made these are The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007. The regulations will come into force 14 days after they were made. This means that they will come into force on 24th July 2007. There are no further opportunities to reject the regulations. The option of an all postal ballot has now effectively been removed by legislative change, and a notice will be issued shortly after 26th July which will make it clear that the referendum will be conducted by means of a traditional election.
33. Preparation for the Referendum will therefore be on a traditional election basis with polling stations. The Chief Executive will be the 'Counting Officer' for the Referendum. Polling hours will be from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on 27th September, 2007 and a list of polling places to be utilised for the Referendum is attached at **Appendix 4**. The list, with the exception of the polling station at Mount Pleasant School, has been prepared using the same polling places as for the Borough Council elections in May.
34. In relation to Mount Pleasant School, a request has been received from the Chair of the Governors to use the Sure Start Mount Pleasant Children's Centre to enable the School to remain open. The Ward Councillors have been consulted and would support this proposal.
35. Poll Cards will be issued to all electors in the Borough (including those electors who have asked for postal or proxy votes) and the system of postal voting, introduced for the May 2007 elections with personal identifiers, will be followed for the Referendum. The Referendum Count will commence the following morning at 9.00 a.m. (Friday, 28th,

September, 2007) in the Dolphin Centre.

36. A timetable of the action to be taken before the Referendum is attached at Appendix 5.

Expenses for a Referendum Campaign

37. The Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 provides detailed provisions for the conduct of referendums caught by the Act. The Act does not however apply to local Referendums, it therefore does not apply to this referendum. Referendum expenses are governed by the draft regulations referred to above. Under these regulations the total referendum expenses incurred by or on behalf of any individual or body must not exceed the referendum expenses limit. The limit means the aggregate of £2,362 and the amount found by multiplying by 5.9 pence by the number of entries in the relevant register. On 1st December 2006 this figure was 79,076. The figure on that basis is £7,027 per individual or body. This will mean that a collection of individuals who are not formed into a Campaign group can each spend £7,027, and a Campaign Group or a political party can spend £7,027. Because individuals can spend this figure each it will mean there is no real limit on the amount that can be spent on a campaign in the referendum, provided that each individual involved in that campaign incurs no more than the expenses limit.
38. It is an offence to exceed the limit or to have reasonably known that the limit would be exceeded or without reasonable excuse authorise another person to exceed the limit.
39. The regulations provide detail as to how expenses should be calculated. If information 'is given' to the Director of Public Prosecutions that the limit has been exceeded and an offence committed then it is his duty to investigate and prosecute as he thinks the case requires.

Mayoral Election

40. Until the outcome of the referendum there is no need for any preparation for a mayoral election. However to inform the debate on the referendum the following information may be relevant. A nomination for a candidate for elected Mayor must be subscribed by 30 signatures in all. A proposer, a seconder and 28 other subscribers. Each person subscribing the nomination paper is required to include their electoral number, and must be on the electoral register in Darlington.
41. A candidate can stand if he/she :-
- (a) Is a registered elector for the area, or
 - (b) Has occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the area for a period of 12 months; or
 - (c) Has had the principal or only place of work in the preceding 12 months in the area or
 - (d) Has resided in the area for 12 months.
42. In addition a deposit of £500 must be provided. If at the mayoral election the candidate achieves less than one twentieth of first preference votes, then the deposit will be forfeited.
43. At the time of nomination, if there is only one validly nominated candidate that person will be the elected Mayor. If there are two candidates there must be an election. If there are only two candidates there will be a conventional election with one vote per elector.

44. If there are three or more candidates each voter will have two votes, a first and second preference. The count will be by first preference votes. If after counting first preference votes one candidate has more than 50% of the votes cast he or she is elected. If no candidate has a majority, the first two candidates remain, and the second preference votes of those who did not vote for one of the remaining candidates are counted. (if after the first preference stage, there are equality of votes between the second and third or more candidates they will also remain candidates).

Outcome of Consultation

45. In respect of Recommendation (a) as detailed in Part 1 of the report. In respect of Recommendations (b) and (c) no consultation was undertaken.

Legal Implications

46. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

47. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

48. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Conclusion

49. The report outlines the final preparations for the Referendum on 27th September 2007.

Recommendation

50. Members are requested to :-
- (a) Approve the Proposals to be submitted to the Secretary of State including the statement on the consultation.
 - (b) Approve the programme of awareness raising for the next stage of the preparations for the referendum.
 - (c) Approve the arrangements proposed for the conduct of the referendum.

Reasons

51. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) On balance the proposals submitted are those most likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the authority's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- (b) The programme of awareness raising is that most likely to ensure that all those who vote in the referendum have a balanced understanding of the choices available to them.
- (c) The arrangements for the referendum are the most likely, within the legislative restrictions imposed upon the Council in relation to postal voting, to achieve a high turnout in the referendum.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Catherine Whitehead : Extension 2306 / TAB

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION BE MAYOR AWARE – LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERRED MAYORAL OPTION

1. Consultation on mayoral options took place from 21st May 2007 to Friday 15th June 2007, 909 responses were received in response to both quantitative and qualitative consultation

Quantitative Consultation

2. Quantitative consultation was undertaken by the council, techniques utilised included:-
 - (a) Every household and business in Darlington received information via the Town Crier the Councils magazine outlining the mayoral options to be considered.
 - (b) Information leaflets were produced and information points were located in key council buildings.
 - (c) Respondents could return answers to the questions being posed on a postcard, email or completing a postcard on line, 309 responses were received.
 - (d) A stakeholder information event was also held on the 7th June 2007 over 2000 invites were sent out together with the information leaflet, 52 people attended the event.

3. Respondents were asked to consider the following three key questions.

Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?

- (a) A directly elected Mayor and Cabinet
 - (b) A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager
4. Should a directly elected Mayor :-
 - (a) Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader?
 - (b) Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing council's control over policy
 5. If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman?

Yes or No.

Qualitative Consultation

6. Qualitative consultation was undertaken by NWA an independent research company who were commissioned to undertake two forms of consultation with Darlington Borough Council's Citizens Panel: a postal survey posted to 1227 residents (556 returns were received) and a focus group session.

Postal Questionnaire

7. The postal questionnaire included the same questions outlined above. Questionnaires were posted out to members of the Darlington Borough Council Citizens' Panel together with a

selection of younger residents under the age of 30 years, a total of 1227 mailings to residents of Darlington. The postal questionnaire included the same questions outlined above.

Focus group session

8. Twenty-seven participants attended the focus group session. The purpose of the session was for the group to explore in detail whether there should be any changes to full council meetings, the policy framework, overview and scrutiny arrangements and to key decisions. The group were asked to consider the following:
 - (a) changes that might be brought about to Council meetings if there was a directly elected mayor.
 - (b) whether more or less plans and strategies should go to full Council if there was an elected mayor.
 - (c) whether there should be more or less Scrutiny Committees.
 - (d) key decisions

Responses

9. In total 909 responses were received. 353 from the Council's quantitative consultation and 556 from NWA's qualitative consultation. The Table of responses can be seen at **Annex A**.

NWA postal survey Number of Participants

Age (years)	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female		Unweighted Count	Row%
	Count	%	Count	%		
18 to 29 years	32	16.7	25	14.6	57	15.6
30 to 44 years	33	29.5	58	28.7	91	29.1
45 to 59 years	81	24.1	99	23.3	180	23.7
60 to 74 years	105	18.5	68	20.0	173	19.3
75 & over	36	11.2	19	13.4	55	12.3
Total	287	100.0	269	100.0	556	100.0

Weightings Applied

	Ages	Required %	Achieved %	Weighting applied	Weighted Achieved %
male	18 to 29	8	6	1.333333	8
	30 to 44	15	6	2.5	15
	45 to 59	12	15	0.8	12
	60 to 74	9	19	0.473684	9
	75 years and above	5	6	0.833333	5
	Sub total		49%		
female	18 to 29	8	5	1.6	8
	30 to 44	15	10	1.5	15
	45 to 59	12	18	0.666667	12
	60 to 74	10	12	0.833333	10
	75 years and above	6	3	2	6
	Sub total		51%		

10. Responses from respondents of the Qualitative and Quantitative engagement to the 3 key questions.

Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?

- (a) A directly elected Mayor and Cabinet
- (b) A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager

The Elected Mayor and Cabinet was the favoured Mayoral option to be included in the referendum with 76% of respondents preferring this option.

Question	Council Consultation	NWA Questionnaire	Combined
Total responses	353	556	909
Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?			
• Elected Mayor and Cabinet	300 (85%)	386 (70%)	686 (76%)
• Elected Mayor and Council Manager	50 (14%)	88 (14.9%)	138 (15%)
• Not answered /not sure	3 (1%)	82(15.1%)	85 (9%)

11. Eleven respondents commented that they preferred the current arrangement and did not see the need for any change.

Should a directly elected Mayor :-

- (a) **Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader?**
- (b) **Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing council's control over policy**

The majority of respondents (55%) were in favour of a directly elected mayor retaining the same level of decision making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader with 38% against and 7% did not answer or not sure.

Question	Council Consultation	NWA Questionnaire	Combined
Total responses	353	556	909
Should a directly elected mayor			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the same level of decision making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader 	213 (60%)	286(50.6%)	499 (55%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing councils control over policy 	133 (38%)	213 (38.9%)	346 (38%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer /not sure 	7 (2%)	57 (10.6%)	64 (7%)

12. If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman? Yes or No.

The majority at 48% were against the name Chairman for a councillor who might carry out the ceremonial duties whilst 40% were in favour. The remaining 12% did not answer or were not sure.

Question	Council Consultation	NWA Questionnaire	Combined
Total responses	353	556	909
If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 	153 (43%)	213 (40.1%)	366 (40%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	158 (45%)	280 (49.6%)	438 (48%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer 	42 (12%)	63 (10.3%)	105 (12%)

13. Respondents were asked to give an alternative to Chairman. Full details are set out in **Annex B.**

Alternative Suggestions ranking in popularity

Council	NWA
First Citizen 14	Alderman 48.1%
Alderman 12	First Citizen 18.5%
Ceremonial Mayor 8	Chairperson 3.7%
	Speaker 3.7%
	Steward 3.7%
	No suggestion 18.5%

14. Of the comments received eleven respondents expressed the view that a ceremonial mayor is not required.

Focus group responses

15. Attending the Focus Groups were 27 participants including 15 men and 12 women. Ages ranged from 16 to 73. A quarter of participants were aged between 16 and 29 years.

	Q12: Gender				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
16 to 29 years	3	20.0%	4	33.3%	7	25.9%
30 to 44 years	2	13.3%	2	16.7%	4	14.8%
45 to 59 years	3	20.0%	1	8.3%	4	14.8%
60 to 74 years	7	46.7%	5	41.7%	12	44.4%
Total	15	100.0%	12	100.0%	27	100.0%

The Focus Group

16. A detailed presentation by the Council’s Director of Corporate Services, of issues concerning the Mayoral Referendum was given at the commencement of the groups.
17. A wide variety of questions of clarification were put to the speaker by the assembled group. The groups’ major concerns centred on the option of the Mayor and Council Manager in that it appeared that only two people would be making major financial and policy decisions rather than a Cabinet. Also it had been explained that this option would be discontinued in 2011. The other major concern was of the comparative cost of the two mayoral options and that of the current Leader and Cabinet. It was generally but not universally accepted that the monies concerned in the executive arrangement were small in comparison to the overall costs of operating the Council.

Alternatives for elected Mayor

18. All of the groups were strongly in favour of the elected Mayor and Cabinet alternative. This option was generally seen to spread power and could allow for proportional representation of political parties in the Cabinet, if required. The alternative of the elected Mayor and Council Manager was seen to be 'dangerous', by those opposing, because of the level of power conferred to make decisions and with one of the two key figures being unelected.
19. Fears were expressed that the Council Manager would be 'in the pocket' of the elected Mayor and so was not able to act independently. Concern was also expressed that the Council Manager option was to be discontinued in 2011 and so it was, anyway a pointless exercise.

Encouraging public participation in Council Meetings

20. When asked to make suggestions to encourage public participation in Council Meetings all of the groups reached similar conclusions. These, in the main, concerned the provision of information and publicity by the Council which informed the public that they could attend meetings, when the meetings were to be held, the agenda for the meetings and to let people know in what circumstances they could speak or ask questions. Practical suggestions as to how people could be informed and their interest increased, included wider newspaper coverage/advertisements and public announcements.
21. It was further suggested that less formal arrangements such as open forums be held every 3 months where debate can take place and Cabinet Members are in attendance.

Actions that the Council might take if there were a directly elected Mayor

22. The groups were asked their views on a number of changes that might be made to Council Meetings if there was a directly elected Mayor.
23. Meeting more often was not generally seen to be important or desirable, with some concern being expressed as to the cost. Those opposing the directly elected Mayor sought to impose the maximum number of opportunities to restrict the elected Mayor's powers. These included more Council meetings, greater control by the chair of meetings, restrictions on the elected Mayor to speak through the Council, changes in key decision definition and the narrowing of policy frameworks policy etc.
24. Those not so strongly opposed to, or in favour of, an elected Mayor were concerned that if such restrictions were needlessly placed on the post holder then people of standing would not be given the opportunity for decision making and would find the post of elected Mayor less attractive.
25. The majority of participants approved of making it easier for the public to ask questions. Opinions were well balanced in the groups with debate favouring making it easier for Councillors to ask questions at Council meetings, although a number of participants felt that as they were unaware of how the system currently worked it was difficult to make a judgement
26. None of the groups felt sufficiently informed to be able to comment on whether or not it should be easier for the elected Mayor to speak through the Council. Similarly, although

one group was opposed to this neither of the other groups felt sufficiently informed to be able to comment on whether it should be easier for the elected Mayor to take decisions through the Council.

27. Overall, but narrowly, giving the person who chairs the Council greater powers to control Council Meetings was not approved.

'Meet more often' - Yes: 40.7%, No: 51.9%, Not sure: 7.4%

'Make it easier for the public to ask questions' - Yes: 96.3%, Not sure: 3.7%

'Make it easier for Councillors to ask questions'. Yes:74.1%, No: 11.1%,
Not sure: 14.8%

'Make it easier for the Mayor to speak through the Council' -Yes: 18.5%, No: 14.8%,
Not sure: 66.7%

'Make it easier for the Mayor to take decisions through the Council' - Yes: 7.4%, No:
33.3%, Not sure: 55.6%

'Giving the chair greater powers to control Council meetings' - Yes: 29.6%, No: 37.0%,
Not sure: 33.3%

Other changes that should be made to the full Council meetings

28. When asked generally 'what other changes do you feel the Council should make to the full Council meeting – groups were uncertain on additional comments but did reiterate some previous responses. These included not having a requirement to submit questions before the meeting and holding informal meetings which the Cabinet attended. The requirement was for more information on how the current system operates.

More or less plans and strategies

29. The groups were asked whether there should be more or less plans and strategies taken to the full Council if there is an elected Mayor. The majority of participants favoured the number of plans and strategies taken to full Council staying as it is at present.

More or less plans to full Council? : 19.2%, Same: 65.4%, Less: 3.8%, Not sure: 11.5%

Further comments on the Policy Framework

30. When asked if there were any further comments the groups would like to make about the Policy Framework previous comments were repeated. It was suggested that although it was desirable to have some control over an elected Mayor too much control would result in a 'lame duck' Mayor. Others reported being unaware of the current Policy Framework and so unable to comment. Finally, it was requested that publicity should be produced which explained to the public how the current system works.

Should there be more or less Scrutiny Committees?

31. The groups were asked whether there should be more or less Scrutiny Committees. The majority wished to retain the current scrutiny arrangement. When asked if Scrutiny should change if there was an elected Mayor two out of three participants did not wish for a change.

'More Scrutiny required' Yes: 22.2%, No: 66.7%, Not sure: 7.4%

'Less Scrutiny required' Yes: 7.4%, No: 70.4%, Not sure: 7.4%

'Change to Scrutiny required' Yes: 11.1%, No: 70.4%, Not sure: 18.5%

Should it be harder or easier to call in the decisions of the Mayor?

32. Similarly to the Scrutiny Committees the majority did not wish to see a change in the ability of Councillors to call in the decisions of the Mayor.

'Change ability of Councillors to call in decisions of the Mayor?'

Yes: 7.4%, No: 66.7%, Not sure: 14.8%

Do you think that the definition of key decisions should be broadened or stay the same?

33. The vast majority of participants believed that the definition of key decisions should remain the same with a number saying that they had insufficient information on which to make a decision.

Do you think 'Chairman' is an appropriate title ceremonial duties?

34. The groups were strongly against the use of the term 'Chairman' for the Councillor carrying out ceremonial duties. Groups sought 'something based in history', and 'a traditional title', with 'alderman' being considered in two of the groups. Others sought a 'master of ceremonies role' and an honorary title such as 'first citizen' or the parliamentary title of 'speaker'.

'Chairman an appropriate title?' - Yes: 3.7%, No: 85.2%, Not sure: 3.7%

COUNCILS QUANTITATIVE RESULTS TABLE

Mayoral Referendum Consultation Results

Total Summary Response	353
Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?	
A directly – elected Mayor and Cabinet	300
A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager	50
Should a directly elected Mayor	
Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader	213
Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing councils control over policy	133
If there is a directly elected Mayor, Darlington will have to lose its historic ceremonial Mayor	
If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman	
Yes	153
No	158
Postcards	
	236
Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?	
A directly – elected Mayor and Cabinet	207
A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager	34
Should a directly elected Mayor	
Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader	139
Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing councils control over policy	98
If there is a directly elected Mayor, Darlington will have to lose its historic ceremonial Mayor	
If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman	
Yes	115
No	111
Crier	
	97
Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?	
A directly – elected Mayor and Cabinet	75
A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager	14
Should a directly elected Mayor	
Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader	64
Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing councils control over policy	28
If there is a directly elected Mayor, Darlington will have to lose its historic ceremonial Mayor	
If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman	
Yes	33
No	36
Eforms	
	16
Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?	
A directly – elected Mayor and Cabinet	14
A directly elected Mayor and Council Manager	2
Should a directly elected Mayor	
Retain the same level of decision-making powers as the current Cabinet and Leader	9
Be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing councils control over policy	6
If there is a directly elected Mayor, Darlington will have to lose its historic ceremonial Mayor	
If another councillor carries out the ceremonial duties, do you agree they should be called Chairman	
Yes	5
No	9

**Tables of Results: Darlington Citizens Panel:
Consultation on Proposed Referendum for an Elected Mayor**

			Q1: Which of the two alternatives would you prefer to be included in the Mayoral Referendum?			Total	
			A directly-elected Mayor and Cabinet	A directly-elected Mayor and Council Manager	Not sure/no preference		
Age group	18 to 29 years	Unweighted Count	33	8	16	57	
		Row %	58.6%	14.2%	27.2%	100.0%	
	30 to 44 years	Unweighted Count	65	13	13	91	
		Row %	72.3%	14.5%	13.2%	100.0%	
	45 to 59 years	Unweighted Count	126	27	27	180	
		Row %	69.9%	15.2%	14.9%	100.0%	
	60 to 74 years	Unweighted Count	119	32	22	173	
		Row %	67.2%	18.0%	14.9%	100.0%	
	75 years and over	Unweighted Count	43	8	4	55	
		Row %	83.6%	11.5%	4.9%	100.0%	
	Q4: Gender	Male	Unweighted Count	199	51	37	287
			Row %	68.7%	16.6%	14.7%	100.0%
Female		Unweighted Count	187	37	45	269	
		Row %	71.2%	13.3%	15.5%	100.0%	
Total	Unweighted Count		386	88	82	556	
	Row %		70.0%	14.9%	15.1%	100.0%	

			Q3: If there is a directly elected Mayor, should the directly elected Mayor ...			Total	
			... retain the same level of decision-making powers as the cabinet and leader	... be restricted in his/her decision-making by increasing controls	Not sure/no opinion		
Age group	18 to 29 years	Unweighted Count	32	14	11	57	
		Row %	55.8%	25.4%	18.8%	100.0%	
	30 to 44 years	Unweighted Count	43	41	7	91	
		Row %	46.3%	47.6%	6.1%	100.0%	
	45 to 59 years	Unweighted Count	93	68	19	180	
		Row %	52.1%	37.7%	10.2%	100.0%	
	60 to 74 years	Unweighted Count	89	69	15	173	
		Row %	48.4%	40.9%	10.7%	100.0%	
	75 years and over	Unweighted Count	29	21	5	55	
		Row %	54.4%	34.3%	11.3%	100.0%	
	Q4: Gender	Male	Unweighted Count	160	109	18	287
			Row %	52.8%	40.4%	6.8%	100.0%
Female		Unweighted Count	126	104	39	269	
		Row %	48.4%	37.4%	14.2%	100.0%	
Total	Unweighted Count		286	213	57	556	
	Row %		50.6%	38.9%	10.6%	100.0%	

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

Council's Table of contents

Title	Total
Master of Ceremonial	1
Ceremonial Mayor	8
Elected mayor carries out ceremonial duties	3
Council Elect	2
Darlington representative	1
The Ceremonial First Citizens	1
Emissary	1
Bailiff (see OED) or Honorary Mayor	1
Deputy Mayor	2
Councillor - that's what they are	2
Why can elected mayor not carry out duties of ceremonial mayor	1
Elected mayor could also carry out ceremonial duties as part of remit and visities his/her electorate	1
Council rep	1
Civic mayor	1
Mr President	1
Chairperson	1
First citizens	14
If anything elected person should be chairman, with a mayor carrying out ceremonial	1
Duties Councillor	1
Civic representative	1
Elected Mayor is Mayor	1
Chairperson	2
not colourful enough for a ceremonial office, master/mistres of ceremonies	1
Honorary Mayor	2
President	1
Keep the present system	4
Town Mayor	1
Town Burgher	1
Alderman	12
President of the council	1
Ceremony leader	4
Mayor	2
Deputy Mayor	2
Lord mayor	2
The Mayors representative	1
Why cant the elected mayor carry out the ceremonial duties 3	1
Civil evets facilitator	1
Speaker	1
Senior Director	1
Town representative	2
People spokeperson	1
Mayor elected	1
total	90

NWA Table of contents alternative suggestions to Chairman

			Age group					Q4: Gender		Total
			18 to 29 years	30 to 44 years	45 to 59 years	60 to 74 years	75 years and over	Male	Female	
Q2: Do you think 'chairman' is an appropriate title for the Councillor who carries out ceremonial duties?	Speaker	Unweighted Count				2		2		2
		Row %				1.7%		.7%		.3%
	First Citizen	Unweighted Count		1	4	5		5	5	10
		Row %		2.9%	4.3%	6.2%		3.8%	2.7%	3.2%
	Alderman	Unweighted Count	1	1	1	3		4	2	6
		Row %	5.6%	2.9%	1.2%	3.2%		3.2%	1.7%	2.4%
	Master of Ceremonies	Unweighted Count			2	1		1	2	3
		Row %			2.0%	.9%		.4%	.9%	.7%
	Provost	Unweighted Count			2			2		2
		Row %			2.4%			1.2%		.6%
	Sheriff	Unweighted Count			1		2	3		3
		Row %			1.2%		4.3%	1.9%		.9%
	Chair/Chairperson	Unweighted Count		5	5	7		9	8	17
		Row %		11.0%	5.3%	7.2%		6.8%	5.5%	6.1%
	Deputy Mayor	Unweighted Count		2	2	3	1	5	3	8
		Row %		4.6%	2.0%	2.6%	2.2%	3.6%	1.9%	2.7%
	Use of 'Mayor' in the title	Unweighted Count	3	3	7	9	5	18	9	27
		Row %	15.0%	8.8%	7.7%	10.9%	10.8%	14.8%	5.4%	9.9%
	Use of 'Ceremonial' title	Unweighted Count	2	6	7	7	2	10	14	24
		Row %	10.3%	11.5%	7.1%	6.6%	7.3%	6.4%	10.7%	8.7%
	Use of 'Councillor' in title	Unweighted Count			3	4		3	4	7
		Row %			3.3%	5.3%		1.6%	2.2%	1.9%
	Use of 'Civic' in title	Unweighted Count		2	1	2		3	2	5
		Row %		4.6%	1.0%	1.7%		2.6%	1.4%	2.0%
	Elected Mayor should carry out ceremonial duties	Unweighted Count		1	5	3	2	7	4	11
		Row %		2.9%	5.5%	3.2%	7.3%	5.1%	2.9%	3.9%
	Other	Unweighted Count	3	3	10	8	4	17	11	28
		Row %	15.0%	7.6%	10.8%	8.1%	14.7%	12.4%	8.4%	10.3%
Do not wish to have an elected mayor	Unweighted Count		1	2	1	3	6	1	7	
	Row %		2.9%	2.2%	.9%	6.5%	4.8%	.5%	2.5%	
None given	Unweighted Count	10	20	42	36	12	46	74	120	
	Row %	54.1%	40.2%	44.2%	41.6%	47.0%	30.8%	55.8%	43.9%	
Total	Unweighted Count	19	45	94	91	31	141	139	280	
	Row %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

MAYORAL REFERENDUM AWARENESS RAISING

1. This paper outlines the approach and programme of activity for raising awareness with Darlington residents about the question in the referendum and the poll itself. At this stage the information provided will be about the chosen mayoral option i.e. elected Mayor and Cabinet and the current arrangements i.e. Leader and Cabinet.
2. To ensure the Mayoral Referendum receives a high profile despite the difficulty of the subject matter it is intended to join this awareness raising of the referendum process with consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy and link in with recreational and leisure activities already programmed in for the summer period such as the Craft Fair, Making Markets matter events taking place in the town centre, Bands in the Park in South Park etc. Other locations have been chosen, as they are in high footfall areas with a reasonable catchment area e.g. Cockerton and Mowden shopping parade. Activities have been arranged in the larger rural areas.

Timetable

3. The awareness raising phase will commence on the 23rd July 2007 this allows the Council to decide on the 19th of July which type of Mayoral option should be put to the referendum (based on stage 1 consultation which concluded on the 15th June 2007) and will cease on the 30th August 2007 in accordance with referendum practice when a council publicity blackout will be in force.

Objectives

The objectives of the 'Awareness Raising' phase :-

- (a) To take a high profile, highly visible approach
- (b) To feedback and explain the results of the consultation
- (c) To raise awareness about the options under consideration, highlighting similarities and differences
- (d) To raise awareness of the referendum poll.

Promotion

4. The following mechanisms will be utilised to promote and raise awareness. A programme of activity which comprises a mixture of road show events linking to recreational and leisure activity already planned for the town and located in high footfall areas with reasonable catchment areas, meetings taking place in a variety of venues, at different times including weekends to ensure a broad approach as possible is taken. The programme of activity is outlined in the table overleaf.
5. Promotion and awareness will include:-
 - Town Crier Article
 - Information leaflet sent to every household and business in the town, providing information the referendum, frequently asked questions and answers and information on the referendum itself.
 - Information points located in key council buildings

- Information on the Council website
- Information leaflets available from the mobile library
- Alpha Radio to run bulletins throughout the awareness raising period relaying the importance of the referendum and promoting the programme of activity
- Continuing to work with the Northern Echo
- Staff briefings
- Meetings in rural areas and with hard to engage groups e.g. elderly, Black and Ethnic Minority
- Road show events in various locations throughout the town, including the town centre market, outside shopping parades, in large business premises such as Cummins, Ling field Point and the Beehive
- Darlington Partnership Conference, the invited audience to include voluntary and community sector, community partnerships, GOLD, businesses etc.

Programme of activity

Date	Mayoral Referendum
23rd July 2007	Staff Briefing
25th July 2007	Staff Briefing
26th July 2007	Cummins Road show 11.30am-2pm
26th July 2007	Information leaflet sent to every household and business
27th July 2007	Asda Supermarket Road show 10am-4pm
Saturday 28th July 2007	Saturday town centre market road show 10am-3pm
30th July 2007	Staff Briefing
30th July 2007	Middleton - St George meeting Dinsdale Court 6.30pm-8.30pm
2nd August 2007	Town Centre Market road show 10am-3pm
3rd August 2007	Morrison's North Road (road show) 10am-4pm
Sunday 5th August 2007	West Park open Day and Sculpture in the Park 11am- 1pm
6th August 2007	Neasham meeting - Neasham Hall 7pm- 8.30pm
7th August 2007	Sadberge Village Hall 6.30pm- 8.30pm
8th August 2007	Yarm Road shopping parade road show
9th August 2007	Cockerton shops road show 3pm- 6pm
10th August 2007	Craft Fair- Market Stall Town Centre 10am –3pm
Sunday 12th August 2007	Bands in the Park South Park 3pm – 5pm
13th August 2007	Hurworth Grange meeting 6.30pm-8pm
15th August 2007	Lingfield Point staff road show event 8.30 – 12.30 Beehive staff road show 1pm -1 4pm
17th August	Age Concern meeting Bradbury House 2pm - 3pm
Saturday 18th August 2007	Making Markets Matter road show 10am – 3pm
Sunday 19th August 2007	Cultural Event 6pm-9pm Not to be publicized
20th August 2007	Making Markets Matter – road show 10am – 3pm
20th August 2007	Heighington Village Hall 6.30pm- 8.30pm
22nd August 2007	Maidendale House road show Firthmoor Estate 12pm-3pm
23rd August 2007	Mowden shops road show 3pm- 6.30pm
24th August 2007	Morrisons Morton Park road show 10am – 4pm
29th August 2007	Darlington Partnership conference
30th August 2007	End of consultation

Resources

6. A budget of £20,000 has been allocated to this phase of the referendum process. Some examples to financial costs include

Activity	Cost £
50,000 Information leaflets designed printed and circulated to every household and business	6,500
Contribution to Interactive Technology	2,500
Contribution to Darlington Assembly Conference	2,000
Publicity materials, stationary, postage etc.	2,000
Hire of van to transport road show material to different venues	500
Contingencies for unforeseen expenditure	4,500

7. To assist with the consultation a pool of over 30 staff have volunteered their time. Awareness raising activity will be spread amongst the volunteers to negate the impact on job roles.

Awareness Raising about the Poll

8. Democratic Services will have representatives at the Awareness Raising events throughout July and August to encourage electors to register to vote (if they are not already on the Electoral Register or if they have recently moved house); to answer queries from electors; and distribute postal and proxy applications forms.

Advertising and Promoting the Referendum

9. The following is planned in the run up to the Referendum on 27th September to encourage electors to vote: -
 - (a) Advertising on the rear of Buses for a four-week period
 - (b) Bus stop advertising in the Town Centre and on radial routes
 - (c) Alpha Radio advertising
 - (d) Galaxy Radio advertising campaign to reach younger voters (18 to 25 years).
 - (e) Town Crier - one page in August and one in September. In addition there will be a separate page in the August edition about the Referendum proposal.
 - (f) Council Vehicles – Stickers reminding people to vote to be attached to council vehicles
 - (g) Darlington College magazine - half page editorial, to reach younger voters
 - (h) Darlington College - projection – use advertising as PowerPoint presentation to be projected onto the wall of the College foyer

Conclusion

10. This Appendix outlines the approach to be taken in this awareness raising phase of the referendum process to ensure a broad approach as possible is taken and Darlington residents are able to make a well informed choice on the 27th September 2007 when the referendum is to take place. It also outlines measures to ensure electors are registered for the Referendum and are able to exercise their right to vote by post or proxy should they wish to vote in that way.

APPENDIX 4

Ward	Polling District	Polling Station
Hummersknott	AA	Carmel R.C. College, (John Caden Hall), The Headlands, Darlington
	AB	Carmel R.C. College, (John Caden Hall), The Headlands, Darlington
Mowden	BA	Mowden Infant School, Bushel Hill Drive, Darlington
	BB	Mowden Infant School, Bushel Hill Drive, Darlington
College	CA	Abbey Junior School, Abbey Road, Darlington
	CB	Arts Centre (East Hall), Vane Terrace, Darlington
	CC	Holy Trinity Youth and Community Centre, Pierremont Road, Darlington
Pierremont	DA	Willow Road Community Centre, Willow Road, Darlington
	DB	Reid Street Primary School, Reid Street, Darlington
	DC	Willow Road Community Centre, Willow Road, Darlington
Cockerton West	EA	Sure Start Mount Pleasant Children's Centre, Newton Lane, Darlington
	EB	Branksome Community Association, Eggleston View, Darlington
	EC	Cockerton Library, West Auckland Road, Darlington
	ED	Sure Start Mount Pleasant Children's Centre, Newton Lane, Darlington
Cockerton East	FA	Mobile Polling Station, The Brinkburn Public House Car Park, Brinkburn Road, Darlington
	FB	R.A. Social Club, (Snooker Room). Brinkburn Road, Darlington
	FC	Holy Family R.C. (Aided) Primary School, Prior Street, Darlington
Faverdale	GA	Alderman Leach Primary School, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington
	GB	Alderman Leach Primary School, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington
Harrowgate Hill	HA	Mobile Unit, Beaumont Hill School Site, Glebe Road, Darlington
	HB	Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church Hall, Lawson Street, Darlington
	HC	D.S.R.M. Social Club, Longfield Road, Darlington
	HD	Whessoe Village Hall, Harrowgate Village, Darlington
North Road	JA	St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, North Road, Darlington
	JB	North Road Primary School, Pendleton Road South, Darlington
	JC	North Road Primary School, Pendleton Road South, Darlington
	JD	The King's Centre, Prospect Place, off Whessoe Road, Darlington
Haughton West	KA	St. Bede's R.C. Primary School, Kingsway, Darlington
	KB	Mobile Polling Station, Springfield School Site, Salters Lane South, Darlington
Haughton North	LA	Whinfield Primary School, Augusta Close, Darlington
	LB	Whinfield Primary School, Augusta Close, Darlington
Haughton East	MA	St. Anne's Church Hall, Welbeck Avenue, Darlington
	MB	Red Hall Community Association, Headingley Crescent, Darlington
Lingfield	NA	Eastbourne Sports Complex, Bourne Avenue, (Off Hundens Lane), Darlington
	NB	Heathfield Primary School, The Broadway, Darlington
	NC	St Herbert's Church Hall, Yarm Road, Darlington
Central	OA	Gurney Pease Primary School, Dodsworth Street, Darlington
	OB	Borough Road Nursery School, Borough Road, Darlington

Ward	Polling District	Polling Station
	OC	St. Augustine's Parish Centre, Larchfield Street, Darlington
Eastbourne	PA	St Teresa's R.C (Aided) Primary School, Harris Street, Darlington
	PB	Firthmoor and District Community Association, Burnside Road, Darlington
	PC	Community Centre, Pilmoor Green, Darlington
Lascelles	QA	St. John's C.E. Primary School, Fenby Avenue, Darlington
	QB	Dodmire Infant School, Rydal Road, Darlington
Bank Top	RA	Dodmire Infant School, Rydal Road, Darlington
	RB	Community Centre in King William Street, Darlington
	RC	St. Teresa's R.C. (Aided) Primary School, Harris Street, Darlington
	RD	Community Centre in Wesley Street, Darlington
Park East	SA	Skerne Park Primary School, The Coleridge Centre, Coleridge Gardens, Darlington
	SB	St. Columba's Church and the Clifton Centre, Clifton Avenue, Darlington
	SC	St. Columba's Church and the Clifton Centre, Clifton Avenue, Darlington
	SD	St Augustine's R C (Aided) Primary, Beechwood Avenue, Darlington
Park West	TA	Abbey Infant School, Cleveland Terrace, Darlington
	TB	All Saint's Millennium Centre, Ravensdale Road, Darlington
	TC	Elm Ridge Methodist Church Hall, Carmel Road South, Darlington
Northgate	UA	Corporation Road Primary School, Corporation Road, Darlington
	UB	Corporation Road Primary School, Corporation Road, Darlington
	UC	Reid Street Primary School, Reid Street, Darlington
Hurworth	VA	Hurworth Primary School, Westfield Drive, Hurworth on Tees
	VB	Hurworth Grange Community Centre, Croft Road, Hurworth
	VC	Elm Ridge Methodist Church Hall, Carmel Road South, Darlington
	VD/ VE	The Reading Room, Neasham
Middleton St. George	WA	Middleton St. George Community Centre
	WB	Middleton St. George Community Centre
Sadberge and Whessoe	XA/ XB/ XC	St Anne's Church Hall, Welbeck Avenue, Darlington
	XD	Village Hall, Brafferton
	XE/ XF	Village Hall, Sadberge
	XG/ XH	Village Hall, Great Stainton
	XJ	Village Hall, Bishopton
Sadberge and Whessoe	XK/XL	Whessoe Village Hall, Harrowgate Village Darlington
Heighington and Whessoe	YA	Village Hall, Heighington
Heighington & Coniscliffe	YB/YG/ YK	Walworth Castle Hotel, Walworth

Ward	Polling District	Polling Station
	YD/ YE	Church Hall, High Coniscliffe
	YC	Alderman Leach Primary School, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington
	YF	Piercebridge Hall, Piercebridge
	YH YJ	Village Hall, Summerhouse

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

REFERENDUM TIMETABLE

27TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Thursday 26th July 2007	Submission of Proposals to Secretary of State
Thursday 26th July 2007	Proposals on Deposit (with copies)
Monday 30th July 2007	First Notice – Newspaper Publication of Notice
(Not later than 25th day before Referendum) 22nd August, 2007	Notice of Referendum
10th August, 2007	Last Day for Applicants to be included in Register of Electors
Monday 27th August 2007	Second Notice – Newspaper Repeat details of first notice
Friday, 31st August to Sunday 2nd September, 2007	Poll Card Issue (by hand)
Mid September 2007 (e.g. 14th September)	First Issue of Postal Ballot Papers
A week before the Referendum (e.g. 21st September)	Second Issue of Postal Ballot Papers
(Not later than sixth day before Referendum) 18th September, 2007	Notice of Poll
5.00 p.m. 12th September, 2007	Last Day for receipt of Postal Vote applications
Thursday 27th September 2007	Polling Day 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Friday 28th September 2007	Counting of Votes 9.00 a.m. Dolphin Centre