



NORTH-EAST REFERENDUM DATA ANALYSIS REPORT

Prepared by:

Sean Carey

Charles Pattie

Martin Smith

(University of Sheffield)

7 February 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The referendum in the North East held on 4 November 2004 was the first vote to be held that put the option of an elected regional assembly to people in England. This report outlines an analysis of the results of this referendum.

The result was a resounding 'No', with 77.9% of votes cast going against the proposed elected regional assembly and only 22.1% in favour. There are 23 local authorities in the North East region, and the majority of voters in each local authority voted against an elected regional assembly. The local authority where voters were most in favour was Derwentside in County Durham, with 29.8% voting 'Yes'. Whilst in Darlington in the Tees Valley a mere 12.9% voted in favour at the referendum, the lowest 'Yes' vote in any local authority.

The North East has the smallest electorate of the Government Office Regions, with just under 1.9 million voters. The electorates of the local authorities in the North East differ in size considerably, from Teesdale in County Durham with the smallest electorate of 19,887 to the city of Sunderland with a population of 209,195.

The region used a system of all-postal voting and 906,367 ballots were cast in the referendum, with an unadjusted turnout of 47.7%. 12,538 of ballots cast were rejected, 1.4% of all ballots cast, which resulted in an adjusted turnout of 47.1%.

The turnout for the referendum was relatively high when compared to other elections in the region earlier in the year. Turnout was 5.2 percentage points higher than in the European Parliament election held on 10 June 2004. In the 6 local authorities in the North East that also had local elections on 10 June turnout was on average more than two percentage points higher at the regional assembly referendum.

There was variation in turnout between local authorities in the regional assembly referendum. Whilst the overall unadjusted turnout was 47.7%, turnout was highest in the local authority of Alnwick, where turnout was 57.4%, and lowest in Middlesbrough where turnout 42.1%.

We have conducted some preliminary statistical analysis on the referendum data by attempting to place the trends in turnout in the context of socio-demographic differences between the local authority districts. We find that there are associations between the distributions of age, education, occupations, economic activity and homeownership. We find that districts with higher levels of turnout are associated with higher proportions of citizens who are older, more educated, in managerial and professional occupations and own their own homes.

In two of the four counties of the North east there was a second question asking the voters of Durham and Northumberland how they would like their local government restructured if a regional assembly was established. The voters of Durham narrowly voted for option A, with 50.6% of the vote, which would have abolished the existing district councils and replaced them with a

single tier local authority covering the whole of the county. In Northumberland the vote was in favour of option B, with 56.2% of the vote, which would have replaced the existing district council structure with two local authorities, one for the rural north west and another for the more urban south east of the county. The electorate in the two-tier counties was 631,242, with 304,764 ballots cast (valid and invalid ballots) for the local government referendum question, a maximal unadjusted turnout figure of 48.3%.

Turnout for the elected assembly question was slightly higher in the two counties that asked two questions in the referendum, compared with Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley where adjusted turnout was 46.2%.

The number of rejected ballots in the referendum for an elected regional assembly was lower than in the European Parliament elections earlier in the year. Overall, 1.4% of ballots cast were rejected in the referendum, compared to 3.7% in the European elections. The majority of rejected ballots occurred before the count, 1.2% of all ballots cast, and a smaller number, 0.2, rejected at the count itself.

The number of rejected ballots for the local government question was proportionally higher than for the elected regional assembly question. There were 10,865 ballots rejected for the second question, accounting for 3.6% of all ballots cast. This was the same proportion of ballots rejected in the European elections in June. The biggest difference between the rejected ballots for regional assembly and local government questions, was the number of ballots rejected at the count. 2.5% of all ballots cast were rejected at the count for the local government question, far higher than the 0.2% for the regional assembly question.

INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide an analysis of the patterns in the data from the referendum for an elected regional assembly in the North East in November 2004. In particular we focus on highlighting the patterns of the outcome of the regional assembly question and the corollary question on the restructuring of local government in Durham and Northumberland. We also demonstrate some of the main themes in the pattern of turnout across the region, in particular in placing turnout for the referendum in the context of previous referendums in Britain and in previous elections in the North East. We also provide some statistical analysis of selected socio-demographic variation between the council districts and how these may relate to differences in turnout. We have attempted to demonstrate these trends using straightforward tables and figures appropriate for a general audience.

REGIONAL REFERENDUM RESULTS

The referendum for an elected regional assembly in the North East on 4 November 2004 resulted in an overwhelming vote of 'No'. Only 22.1% of votes cast were in favour of the elected regional assembly, with 77.9% of votes against, almost a 4:1 ratio. The result was so resounding that it soon led the government to cancel similar referendums in the North West and Yorkshire and Humber. The government had already postponed these in summer 2004, but the result in the North East meant they were not put back on agenda.

This outcome bucked the recent trend of high profile referendums resulting in positive votes and constitutional change. The referendums on constitutional change that took place in 1997 and 1998 were all approved by the voters, with a narrow majority in Wales, but comfortable majorities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and London. The voters rejected previous referendums on Welsh and Scottish devolution in 1979¹. The only national referendum to take place in the UK approved remaining in the European Economic Community in 1975.

1. UK constitutional referendums (%)

	Turnout	Yes	No
EC membership 1975	64.0	67.2	32.8
Scotland 1979	63.8	51.6	48.4
Wales 1979	58.8	20.3	79.7
Scotland 1997	60.4	74.3	25.7
Tax-varying powers	60.4	63.5	36.5
Wales 1997	50.1	50.3	49.7
Northern Ireland 1998	81.1	71.1	28.9
London Mayor 1998	34.1	72.0	28.0
NE regional referendum	47.1	22.1	77.9

¹ In the case of Scotland a majority did vote in favour of devolution in 1979, but less than 40% of the electorate that was required. Denver, D. (2002) "Voting in the 1997 Scottish and Welsh Devolution Referendums: Information, Interests and Opinions", *European Journal of Political Research*, 41:827-43.

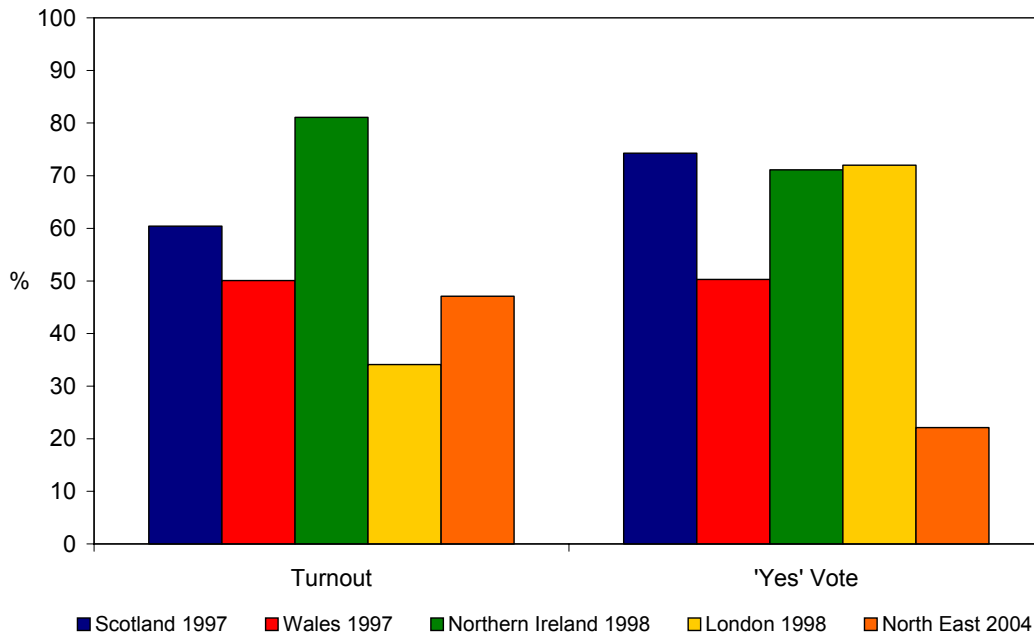


Figure 1. UK constitutional referendums compared

However, there have also been lower-level referendums in recent years which have resulted in a number of rejections from the voters. 30 local authorities in England held referendums on elected mayors in 2001 and 2002, with 11 voting in favour and 19 against. 7 of these local authorities were in the North East, where voters in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Durham, Sedgefield and Sunderland voted against having an elected mayor and voters in Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and North Tyneside, voted in favour. There was a large range in the share of 'Yes' votes in the region, from a low of 26.2% in Berwick-upon-Tweed to a high of 84.3% in favour in Middlesbrough.

2. Results of mayoral referendums in the North East in 2001 (%)

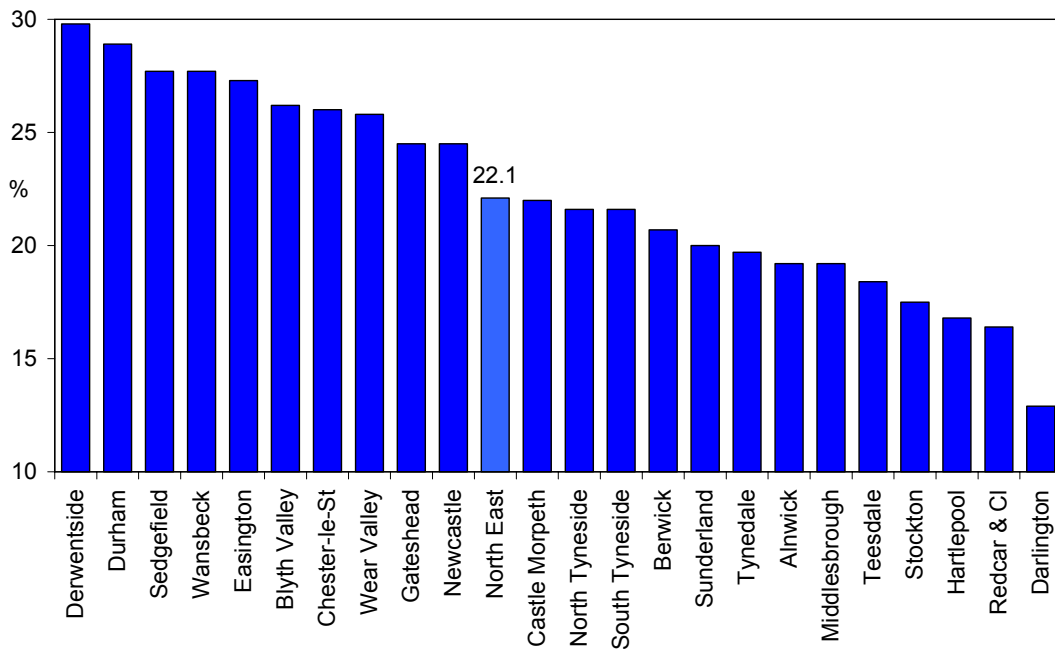
	Yes	Turnout
Middlesbrough	84.3	34.0
North Tyneside	57.6	36.0
Hartlepool	50.9	31.0
Sedgefield	47.2	33.3
Sunderland	44.0	10.0
Durham	41.0	28.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	26.2	64.0

Voters in each of the North East's 23 local authorities voted overwhelmingly against the elected regional assembly. Differences across these authorities ranged from the highest 'Yes' vote of 29.8% in Derwentside to the lowest in Darlington of 12.9%. Of the 4 counties that make up the North East region The Tees Valley stands out as having the least amount of support for the proposed elected regional assembly, with an average of just 16.7%. County Durham saw the highest level of support at 27.2%.

3. % Vote share for Yes/No regional assembly question by region, county and local authority

	Yes	No
Co Durham	27.2	72.8
Chester-le-Street	26.0	74.0
Derwentside	29.8	70.2
Durham	28.9	71.1
Easington	27.3	72.7
Sedgefield	27.7	72.3
Teesdale	18.4	81.6
Wear Valley	25.8	74.2
Northumberland	23.0	77.0
Alnwick	19.2	80.8
Berwick-upon-Tweed	20.7	79.3
Blyth Valley	26.2	73.8
Castle Morpeth	22.0	78.0
Tynedale	19.7	80.3
Wansbeck	27.7	72.3
Tyne & Wear	22.4	77.6
Gateshead	24.5	75.5
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	24.5	75.5
North Tyneside	21.6	78.4
South Tyneside	21.6	78.4
Sunderland	20.0	80.0
Tees Valley	16.7	83.3
Darlington	12.9	87.1
Hartlepool	16.8	83.2
Middlesbrough	19.2	80.8
Redcar and Cleveland	16.4	83.6
Stockton-on-Tees	17.5	82.5
North East	22.1	77.9

Figure 2 Vote share for Yes/No regional assembly question by region



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFERENDUM RESULTS

Voters in the two-tier local authorities in Northumberland and County Durham were faced with two questions in the November 2004 referendum. In addition to the regional assembly question, a corollary question was asked on the potential reorganisation of the current two-tier system of local government in the event of an elected regional assembly being established. Voters were offered two choices: option A would have created a single tier local authority in Northumberland and County Durham respectively; option B would have created 2 new authorities in Northumberland and 3 new authorities in Durham formed from previous district council areas.

Option B was preferred by the voters of Northumberland, with 56.2% of the vote. Option A was narrowly preferred in County Durham with 50.6% of the vote, a majority of just 2,099 votes. In Northumberland a majority of voters in all but one of the 6 local authorities chose option B, with Castle Morpeth the exception. In County Durham there was much more heterogeneity, with voters in Chester-le-Street, City of Durham and Sedgefield preferring option A and majorities in Derwentside, Easington, Teesdale and Wear Valley choosing option B.

4. % Vote share for local government referendum question by county and local authority

	Option A	Option B
Co Durham	50.6	49.4
Durham	67.1	32.9
Sedgefield	56.2	43.8
Chester-le-Street	51.8	48.2
Wear Valley	48.9	51.1
Derwentside	43.8	56.2

Teesdale	41.2	58.8
Easington	37.1	62.9
Northumberland	43.8	56.2
Castle Morpeth	53.6	46.4
Wansbeck	49.5	50.5
Blyth Valley	42.9	57.1
Tynedale	40.6	59.4
Berwick-upon-Tweed	38.0	62.0
Alnwick	32.8	67.2

ELECTORATE OF THE NORTH EAST

As well as being the smallest region in terms of area, the North East also has the smallest electorate of the Government Office Regions, with just under 1.9 million voters. The electorates of the local authorities in the North East differ in size considerably, from Teesdale in County Durham with the smallest electorate of 19,887 constituting just 1% of the region's voting population to the city of Sunderland with a voting-age population of 209,195, just over 11% of the North East's electorate.

5. Electorate of North East on 4 November 2004, by local authority

Local Authority	County	Electorate	Proportion of region (%)
Teesdale	Co Durham	19,887	1.0
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Northumberland	21,468	1.1
Alnwick	Northumberland	25,213	1.3
Castle Morpeth	Northumberland	38,357	2.0
Chester-le-Street	Co Durham	43,032	2.3
Wansbeck	Northumberland	46,636	2.5
Tynedale	Northumberland	47,451	2.5
Wear Valley	Co Durham	48,420	2.5
Blyth Valley	Northumberland	63,884	3.4
Derwentside	Co Durham	66,942	3.5
Sedgefield	Co Durham	68,383	3.6
Hartlepool	Tees Valley	68,636	3.6
Easington	Co Durham	70,517	3.7
Durham	Co Durham	71,052	3.7
Darlington	Tees Valley	76,178	4.0
Middlesbrough	Tees Valley	100,706	5.3
Redcar and Cleveland	Tees Valley	103,769	5.5
South Tyneside	Tyne & Wear	114,377	6.0
Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Valley	132,848	7.0
North Tyneside	Tyne & Wear	140,478	7.4
Gateshead	Tyne & Wear	143,782	7.6
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Tyne & Wear	178,531	9.4
Sunderland	Tyne & Wear	209,195	11.0
North East		1,899,742	100.0

REGIONAL REFERENDUM TURNOUT

The adjusted turnout for the North East regional referendum was 47.1% and a maximal unadjusted turnout of 47.7%. This figure was higher than many commentators expected. Indeed the figure was higher than opinion polls in the region suggested prior to most serious campaigning. In a poll conducted by ICM in August 2004, only 22% of respondents said they were 'certain' to vote². From a comparative perspective turnout in the 2004 was lower than other high profile constitutional referendums in the UK, such as the devolution referendums in Scotland and Wales in 1997 and 1979 and the national referendum on European Community membership in 1975. However, in comparison with recent mayoral referendums in parts of England, turnout was significantly higher. Turnout for the North East regional referendum was relatively high even when compared to the most high-profile mayoral referendum, in London, where turnout was a mere 34.1%. Of the 30 referendums on elected mayors in England in 2001 and 2002, only one, Berwick-upon-Tweed, had a turnout higher than recorded in the North East regional referendum.

6. Turnout by local authority, in comparison with previous mayoral referendums and elections, adjusted (%)

	Regional Referendum 2004	Mayoral election 2003	Mayoral elections 2002	Mayoral referendums 2001
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.5			64.0
Durham	47.7			28.5
Hartlepool	42.4		30.1	31.0
Middlesbrough	41.2		41.3	34.0
North Tyneside	50.1	31.4	42.5	36.0
Sedgefield	47.7			33.3
Sunderland	42.9			10.0

In comparison with previous turnout in the North East region, turnout for the referendum on an elected regional assembly compares favourably. There was a 6.1 percentage point increase in the level of turnout from the election to the European Parliament on 10 June 2004, where adjusted turnout in the North East was 41.0%. Undoubtedly, all-postal voting played a major part in the relatively high turnout in both the regional referendum and EP election. Turnout in the previous EP election in 1999 had been just 19.6% in the North East. By the referendum in November 2004 the voting public of the North East had more exposure to pilot voting schemes than anyone else and were much more positive to all-postal voting than other pilot regions voting this way in the June 2004 EP elections³.

Of the North East's three local authorities where the voters had chosen to elect their mayor, variations in turnout between mayoral and regional assembly referendums in the North East were quite variable. Although there

² <http://www.icmresearch.co.uk/reviews/2004/yes4ne/Yes2NEPoll-Aug04.pdf>

³ Curtice, J. (2004) *Public opinion and the 2004 electoral pilot schemes*, Electoral Commission.

was little difference between turnout levels for the regional referendum and the mayoral election in Middlesbrough in 2002, there were large increases in turnout from mayoral to regional assembly votes in Hartlepool and North Tyneside, and an even greater difference when compared with the mayoral by-election in North Tyneside in 2003.

Referendums are often categorised as second order elections⁴, one of the characteristics being that turnout is lower than in national general elections. As would be expected, the turnout rate for the regional referendum was less than the previous general election. In the North East in 2001, 56.4% of the electorate voted, 9.3 percentage points higher than in the regional referendum. Turnout is usually considerably lower in referendums than in national elections. Previous research studying a large number of cases has found that turnout in referendums averaged 15 percentage points lower than in general elections.⁵

7. Turnout in the North East, adjusted (%)

European Parliament 1999	19.6
General Election 2001	56.4
European Parliament 2004	41.0
Regional referendum 2004	47.1

The range of turnout across the local authorities in the North East extended from a low of 42.1% in Middlesbrough to a high of 57.3% in Alnwick. Whilst the adjusted turnout in the North East as a whole was 47.1%, the standard deviation between the 23 local authorities was 4.5.

In each local authority turnout increased from the European Parliament elections on 10 June 2004. However, the range of this change is sizeable, from less than one per cent in Newcastle-upon-Tyne to 12.4 percentage points in Stockton-on-Tees.

In six authorities, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland, local elections as well as EP elections took place on 10 June. In each of those authorities turnout had been slightly higher in the local elections than in the EP elections. Turnout in the regional referendum was higher than in five of these local elections, but had decreased by one percentage point in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

⁴ Reif, K., and H. Schmitt. (1980) 'Nine Second-order National Elections: A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of European Election Results'. *European Journal of Political Research*. 8:3-44.

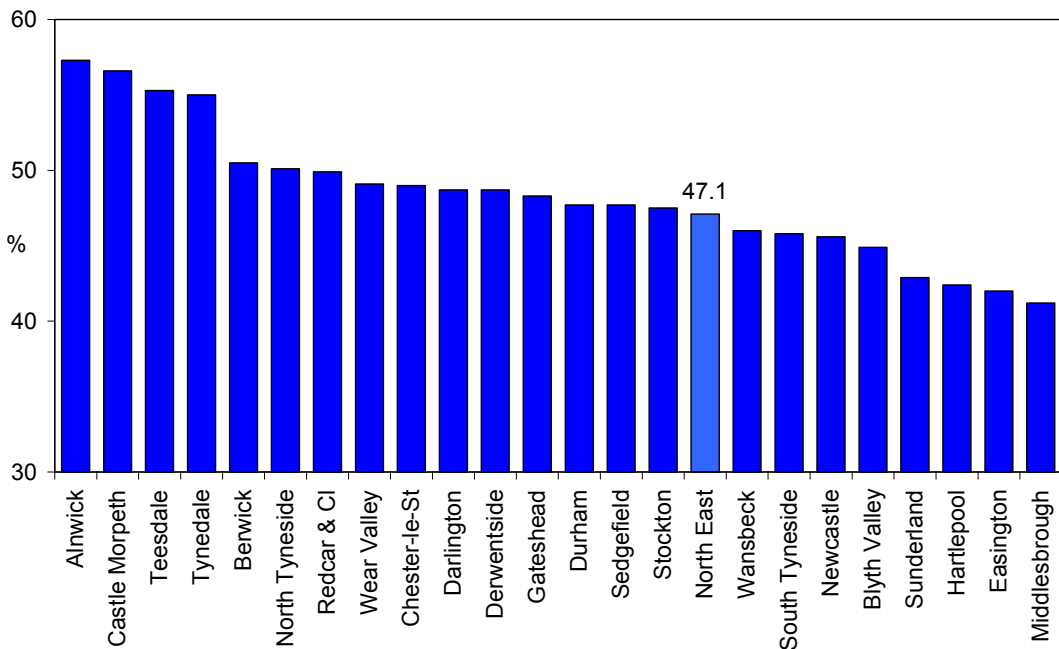
⁵ Butler, D. & A. Ranney, eds. (1994) *Referendums Around the World: The Growing Use of Direct Democracy*, London: MacMillan.

8. Turnout by local authority, comparison with June 2004 elections, adjusted (%)

	Regional Referendum	EP	change	Local ⁶ elections	change
Alnwick	57.3	48.2	+9.1		
Castle Morpeth	56.6	49.4	+7.2		
Teesdale	55.3	44.5	+10.8		
Tynedale	55.0	48.1	+6.9		
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.5	44.4	+6.1		
North Tyneside	50.1	48.3	+1.8	49.1	+1.0
Redcar and Cleveland	49.9	38.5	+11.4		
Wear Valley	49.1	39.5	+9.6		
Chester-le-Street	49.0	40.8	+8.2		
Darlington	48.7	40.5	+8.2		
Derwentside	48.7	41.4	+7.3		
Gateshead	48.3	46.7	+1.6	47.5	+0.8
Durham	47.7	42.3	+5.4		
Sedgefield	47.7	38.5	+9.2		
Stockton-on-Tees	47.5	35.1	+12.4		
Wansbeck	46.0	39.2	+6.8		
South Tyneside	45.8	39.9	+5.9	41.3	+4.5
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	45.6	44.7	+0.9	46.6	-1.0
Blyth Valley	44.9	39.6	+5.3		
Sunderland	42.9	39.3	+3.6	39.6	+3.3
Hartlepool	42.4	37.3	+5.1	38.0	+4.4
Easington	42.0	33.1	+8.9		
Middlesbrough	41.2	32.2	+9.0		
North East	47.1	41.0	+6.1		

⁶ Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre, University of Plymouth.

Figure 3. Adjusted Turnout by local authority



Trends in turnout can also be found in the North East region's 4 counties. In Northumberland more than half of the electorate voted with adjusted turnout at 50.7%. Lower levels of turnout were found in Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley where adjusted turnout was 46.2%, with County Durham closer to the mean at 47.5%. One of the possible causes for these differences in levels of turnout could be the dual question in the two-tier areas, where large amounts of money had been given to the Boundary Commission for the consultation and preparation of the options to put to the voters⁷. Turnout for the regional assembly referendum was 2.6 percentage points higher in the two-question counties than in Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley.

⁷ Hetherington, P. and E. Pinkney (2004) *Nations and Regions: The Dynamics of Devolution*, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies

9. Turnout by local authority, county, single question/two-tier question in referendum, adjusted (%)

	Turnout by local authority		Turnout by county	Turnout by two-tier/unitary areas
Alnwick	57.3			
Castle Morpeth	56.6			
Tynedale	55.0	Northumberland	50.7	
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.5			
Wansbeck	46.0			
Blyth Valley	44.9			
Teesdale	55.3			48.8
Wear Valley	49.1			
Chester-le-Street	49.0	Co Durham	47.5	
Derwentside	48.7			
Durham	47.7			
Sedgefield	47.7			
Easington	42.0			
North Tyneside	50.1			
Gateshead	48.3	Tyne & Wear	46.2	
South Tyneside	45.8			
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	45.6			
Sunderland	42.9			
Redcar and Cleveland	49.9			
Darlington	48.7	Tees Valley	46.2	46.2
Stockton-on-Tees	47.5			
Hartlepool	42.4			
Middlesbrough	41.2			

To check the significance of this difference, the tables below shows an Analysis of variance (ANOVA), with county as the break, and a t-test, with whether there was a local govt question as the break. The t-test reveals a statistically significant difference in the mean turnouts – very slightly higher in areas with a second question. However, we find no county-by-county difference in turnout, though there are only a very small number of cases.

10. Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	113.5	3	37.8	2.19	.12
Within Groups	328.0	19	17.2		
Total	441.6	22			

11. t-test for Equality of Means

	t	Degrees of freedom	Significance (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Equal variances assumed	2.14	21	.044	3.74	1.75
Equal variances not assumed	2.25	20.7	.035	3.74	1.66

Whilst there is any number of potential reasons for the variation in turnout in the regional assembly referendum, it is likely that differences in the distribution of certain socio-demographic factors account for some of this variation. Using data from the 2001 census it is possible to conduct some preliminary analysis to investigate how selected social factors may influence turnout between local authorities.

The table below includes correlations between turnout at the regional assembly referendum in the 23 North East local authorities and selected socio-demographic variables that characterise those districts as measured in the 2001 Census. The first set of variables measure the distribution of age ranges in the region and yield some interesting results. Local authorities with a greater proportion of their population in the older age brackets of 45-64 and over-65 are associated with higher levels of turnout. Whereas districts with greater numbers of younger people, children and young adults between 18-29 are negatively associated with turnout. The intermediate age group 30-44, whilst showing a negative relationship, is not a statistically significant one. The next set of variables deal with the economic activity of the population. There appears to be little association between the proportion of those working full-time and turning out to vote. However, there are strong relationships between shares of self-employed workers and retired people and turning out to vote.

On the other hand, there is a very strong negative relationship of -0.7 between the percentage of unemployed in a district and turnout. The next three variables are occupational based, and are all statistically significant. Higher proportions of managerial and professional occupations in a district are associated with increasing levels of turnout, whereas a greater share of routine manual workers is negatively associated with turnout. There are also correlations with the proportions of people in districts working in some industries. The two industries in the table below are the fishing industry and manufacturing, with the former positively associated with turnout and the latter negatively, although just marginally below our level of statistical significance. We also find that there is a positive association between the proportion of homeowners in a constituency and an inverse link with the proportion renters. And finally, we correlate two measures of education with turnout, finding that higher levels of local authority electorates with degrees is associated with higher levels of turnout and higher proportions of the population with no educational qualifications correlate negatively with turnout.

12. Correlation coefficients of selected socio-demographic variables on adjusted turnout in North East referendum local authorities

Variables	Correlation coefficient
% of population aged under 18	-0.63*
% of population aged 18-29	-0.54*
% of population aged 30-44	-0.36
% of population aged 45-64	0.80*
% of population aged 65+	0.64*
% of population working full-time	0.13
% of population self-employed	0.81*
% of population unemployed	-0.70*
% of population retired	0.69*
% of population in managerial occupations	0.74*
% of population in professional occupations	0.62*
% of population in routine manual occupations	-0.59*
% of population working in the fishing industry	0.70*
% of population working in manufacturing	-0.41
% of population who are homeowners	0.44*
% of population who rent their homes	-0.44*
% of population with no educational qualifications	-0.67*
% of population with a degree	0.71*

* $p \leq .05$

When investigating a concept such as variations in levels of turnout there are likely to be a multitude of causal factors. Therefore multivariate techniques, such as multiple regression, are generally preferable to pairwise correlations. With only 23 local authorities any multivariate regression analysis is restricted in the number of variables that can be investigated. In the table below we have chosen 4 variables in an attempt to tap into the effects of varied distribution of age, education, occupational class and home ownership across the 23 local authorities of the North East.

13. Regression model of selected socio-demographic variables on adjusted turnout in North East referendum local authorities

Variables	Coefficient	Std error
% of population aged 18-29	-0.903	(0.19)*
% of population in managerial occupations	0.242	(1.99)
% of adults who are homeowners	0.005	(0.14)
% of population with a degree	0.670	(0.22)*
Constant	49.257	(7.88)*

R^2	.81
N	23

* $p \leq .05$

Given the small number of cases and high probability of omitted variable bias we must interpret these results carefully. Nevertheless this initial analysis yields some interesting results. Firstly, the R^2 for the model is high, suggesting that we can explain 81% of the variance in turnout at the local authority level with our 4 explanatory variables. Two of our variables are found to be statistically significant in influencing turnout: The percentage of young people in the population is found to exert a negative effect and the percentage of highly educated people a positive effect. Substantively we can interpret these effects as an increase of 1% of young adults in the population of a local authority is associated with a 0.9% decrease in turnout; and an increase of 1% of degree-educated adults in the population is associated with a 0.7% increase in turnout. Although our managerial and homeowner variables are both found to exert positive effects on turnout they are below our level of statistical significance, so we cannot have any confidence in the influence of these variables.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFERENDUM TURNOUT

The unadjusted turnout figure of 48.3% for the local government question is one half of one percentage point lower than the regional assembly question in the two counties that were asked both questions. The difference is greater when looking at the adjusted turnout figure of 46.6%, where rejected ballots are not included, over 2.2 percentage points less than the regional assembly question.

Despite the higher numbers of rejected ballots for the local government question, adjusted turnout levels are still substantially higher in each local authority than in the European Parliament elections in June 2004.

14. List of adjusted turnout in descending order of local authority for local government referendum question and comparison to regional assembly question and EP election June 10, 2004 (%)

	Local Government	Regional referendum	Change	EP	Change
Alnwick	55.1	57.3	-2.2	48.2	+6.9
Castle Morpeth	54.1	56.6	-2.5	49.4	+4.7
Teesdale	52.9	55.3	-2.4	44.5	+8.4
Tynedale	52.6	55.0	-2.4	48.1	+4.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	48.3	50.5	-2.2	44.4	+3.9
Wear Valley	47.0	49.1	-2.1	39.5	+7.5
Derwentside	46.9	48.7	-1.8	41.4	+5.5
Chester-le-Street	46.5	49.0	-2.5	40.8	+5.7
Durham	45.7	47.7	-2.0	42.3	+3.4
Sedgefield	45.1	47.7	-2.6	38.5	+6.6
Wansbeck	43.8	46.0	-2.2	39.2	+4.6
Blyth Valley	42.8	44.9	-2.1	39.6	+3.2
Easington	40.1	42.0	-1.9	33.1	+7.0

REJECTED BALLOTS

1.4% of all ballots cast were rejected, the overwhelmingly majority of these were rejected before the count. Of the 1.2% of the total ballots cast that were rejected before the count 0.6% were rejected due to a missing security statement, 0.36% unsigned security statement and 0.25% contained a security statement, but no ballot. A further 0.2% of all ballots were rejected at the count, mostly because the ballot paper was blank or spoiled.

The number of rejected ballots at the regional referendum was quite low, although there were local authorities where the figure was higher. Berwick-upon-Tweed had the highest number of rejected ballots, with 3.4% of its ballots rejected, whereas only 0.2% of ballots were rejected in Alnwick.

The number of rejected ballots was greatly reduced from the European Parliament elections in June 2004, where 3.7% of ballots were rejected. This improvement was seen in most of the local authorities, with an increase in rejected ballots only occurring in two of the 23 local authorities, Berwick-upon-Tweed and Teesdale.

15. Rejected ballots for regional assembly question as % of total ballots cast

	Before count	Change from EP Election	At count	Change from EP Election
Alnwick	0.1	-0.5	0.1	-0.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3.2	+1.4	0.2	-0.5
Blyth Valley	1.1	-0.8	0.1	-1.0
Castle Morpeth	0.8	-0.5	0.2	-0.5
Chester-le-Street	0.9	-0.8	0.1	-0.6
Darlington	0.7	-0.8	0.1	-0.3
Derwentside	0.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.8
Durham	1.0	-0.5	0.2	-0.2
Easington	1.1	-0.6	0.3	-0.9
Gateshead	1.9	-0.6	0.2	-1.1
Hartlepool	1.0	-0.3	0.2	-1.4
Middlesbrough	1.9	-1.3	0.1	-0.1
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1.6	-0.8	0.1	-2.5
North Tyneside	1.1	-0.5	0.1	-1.9
Redcar and Cleveland	1.3	-1.3	0.2	-0.8
Sedgefield	1.2	-0.5	0.1	-0.4
South Tyneside	0.9	-4.0	0.1	-3.3
Stockton-on-Tees	1.5	-1.6	0.1	0.0
Sunderland	0.9	-2.4	0.2	-1.7
Teesdale	2.6	+1.0	0.2	-0.3
Tynedale	0.5	-0.7	0.2	-0.1
Wansbeck	1.0	-0.6	0.3	-0.3
Wear Valley	1.4	-0.3	0.2	-0.3
North East	1.2	-1.1	0.2	-1.2

There was a higher incidence of rejected ballots for the local government question, where 3.6% of ballots cast were rejected. Of these 1.1% of all ballots cast were rejected before the count and 2.5% at the count, almost all the latter, 2.4% of all ballots cast, were rejected because the ballot was either blank or spoiled. Berwick-upon-Tweed had the highest number of rejected ballots, with 5.8% of its ballots rejected, whereas only 2.2% of ballots were rejected in Alnwick.

When compared to the European Parliament election there was an overall reduction in the numbers of local government question ballots rejected before the count. However, because of the relatively large numbers of blank or spoiled ballots, more ballots were rejected overall. In every local authority there was an increase in ballots rejected at the count of the regional referendum when compared with the EP election in June.

16. Rejected ballots for local government referendum question at count and change on 10 June, 2004, by reason by local authority

	Before count	Change from EP Election	At count	Change from EP Election
Co Durham				
Chester-le-Street	1.2	-0.5	2.6	+1.8
Derwentside	0.5	-0.5	2.0	+0.9
Durham	1.0	-0.4	2.4	+2.0
Easington	1.1	-0.6	2.4	+1.3
Sedgefield	1.9	+0.1	2.7	+2.3
Teesdale	1.5	-0.1	2.8	+2.2
Wear Valley	0.9	-0.8	2.7	+2.2
Northumberland				
Alnwick	0.1	-0.6	2.1	+1.4
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3.3	+1.5	2.5	+1.8
Blyth Valley	1.4	-0.5	2.2	+1.1
Castle Morpeth	0.9	-0.4	2.3	+1.6
Tynedale	0.5	-0.7	2.6	+2.3
Wansbeck	1.0	-0.6	2.8	+2.3

1,088 ballots were returned after the close of poll, and are not included in the overall turnout figures. However, the inclusion of these ballots would not have affected the overall turnout figure greatly, raising the unadjusted figure just slightly from 47.7% to 47.8%.

CONCLUSION

The decision of the voters of the North East on the proposed elected regional assembly was resolute, and negative. Not only was the result rejected by a majority of voters in the region, but by a significant majority in every local authority in the region. In Durham and Northumberland the decision on how to restructure local government in the event of a regional assembly being established was far less clear, but in the end a moot one. Although there had been speculation that there would be a reorganisation of local government in the counties irrespective of whether or not there was a regional assembly, a

spokesperson for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister dismissed the notion shortly after the 'No' vote⁸.

There is little doubt that the turnout for the vote was high, when considering that the referendum received little national coverage and when put in context of recent local, European and even general elections. Across all the local authorities of the region there were increases in turnout from the European elections earlier in the year, which in turn were significantly higher than the European elections in 1999. Further analysis at the individual level is required to establish the reasons for any differences in turnout across the region, but some preliminary analysis of the aggregate data here has found there are links between turnout levels and a number of socio-demographic characteristics of the local authority areas.

⁸ Hetherington, P. and E. Pinkney (2004) *Nations and Regions: The Dynamics of Devolution*, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies, p. 13.

APPENDIX: Required Output

17. Summary table, NE referendum 2004

General	Regional referendum	Local government referendum
Number of counties	4	2
Number of local authorities	23	13
Number of Assisted Delivery Points (ADPs)	55	19
Turnout		
Eligible electorate	1,899,742	631,242
Total number of ballots returned/cast	906,367	304,763
Total number of valid votes counted	893,829	293,898
Unadjusted turnout	47.7	48.3
Adjusted turnout	47.1	46.6
Rejected ballots		
Total number of rejected ballots	12,538	10,865
Rejected ballots as % of ballots returned/cast	1.4	3.6
Total number of ballots rejected before the count	11,059	3,394
Total number of ballots rejected at the count	1,479	7,471
Number of ballots rejected at the count as % of all ballots included in count	0.2	2.5
Number of ballots rejected at the count as % of all ballots returned/cast	0.2	2.5
Postal ballots		
Number of postal ballots issued	1,899,742	631,242
Total number of covering envelopes received before the close of poll	967,101	333,050
Number of cases in which covering envelope or contents were marked as 'rejected'	11,059	3,394

18. Summary of referendum results

	Votes	Share of vote
Yes	197,310	22.1%
No	696,519	77.9%
Total	893,829	100%

19. Votes polled for Yes/No regional assembly question by region, county and local authority

	Yes	No
Co Durham	50,252	134,314
Chester-le-Street	5,487	15,610
Derwentside	9,718	22,888
Durham	9,791	24,106
Easington	8,065	21,520
Sedgefield	9,040	23,583
Teesdale	2,020	8,972
Wear Valley	6,131	17,635
Northumberland	28,413	94,871
Alnwick	2,771	11,666
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,250	8,597
Blyth Valley	7,523	21,178
Castle Morpeth	4,776	16,952
Tynedale	5,146	20,975
Wansbeck	5,947	15,503
Tees Valley	37,191	185,355
Darlington	4,784	32,282
Hartlepool	4,887	24,240
Middlesbrough	7,977	33,543
Redcar and Cleveland	8,493	43,250
Stockton-on-Tees	11,050	52,040
Tyne & Wear	81,454	281,979
Gateshead	17,011	52,459
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	19,984	61,477
North Tyneside	15,203	55,121
South Tyneside	11,329	41,029
Sunderland	17,927	71,893
North East	197,310	696,519

20. Votes polled for local government referendum question by county and local authority

	Option A	Option B
Co Durham	89,149	87,050
Chester-le-Street	10,363	9,628
Derwentside	13,734	17,648
Durham	21,778	10,661
Easington	10,500	17,790
Sedgefield	17,312	13,511
Teesdale	4,334	6,177
Wear Valley	11,128	11,635
Northumberland	51,560	66,140
Alnwick	4,563	9,335
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3,933	6,429
Blyth Valley	11,719	15,603
Castle Morpeth	11,116	9,641
Tynedale	10,125	14,830
Wansbeck	10,104	10,302

21. % Vote share for Yes/No regional assembly question by region, county and local authority

	Yes	No
Co Durham	27.2	72.8
Chester-le-Street	26.0	74.0
Derwentside	29.8	70.2
Durham	28.9	71.1
Easington	27.3	72.7
Sedgefield	27.7	72.3
Teesdale	18.4	81.6
Wear Valley	25.8	74.2
Northumberland	23.0	77.0
Alnwick	19.2	80.8
Berwick-upon-Tweed	20.7	79.3
Blyth Valley	26.2	73.8
Castle Morpeth	22.0	78.0
Tynedale	19.7	80.3
Wansbeck	27.7	72.3
Tees Valley	16.7	83.3
Darlington	12.9	87.1
Hartlepool	16.8	83.2
Middlesbrough	19.2	80.8
Redcar and Cleveland	16.4	83.6
Stockton-on-Tees	17.5	82.5
Tyne & Wear	22.4	77.6
Gateshead	24.5	75.5
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	24.5	75.5
North Tyneside	21.6	78.4
South Tyneside	21.6	78.4
Sunderland	20.0	80.0
North East	22.1	77.9

22. % Vote share for local government referendum question by county and local authority

	Option A	Option B
Co Durham	50.6	49.4
Chester-le-Street	51.8	48.2
Derwentside	43.8	56.2
Durham	67.1	32.9
Easington	37.1	62.9
Sedgefield	56.2	43.8
Teesdale	41.2	58.8
Wear Valley	48.9	51.1
Northumberland	43.8	56.2
Alnwick	32.8	67.2
Berwick-upon-Tweed	38.0	62.0
Blyth Valley	42.9	57.1
Castle Morpeth	53.6	46.4
Tynedale	40.6	59.4
Wansbeck	49.5	50.5

23. Turnout comparison with June 10, 2004 by local authority (%)

Adjusted turnout

	Regional Referendum	European Parliament	Percentage point change
Alnwick	57.3	48.2	+9.1
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.5	44.4	+6.1
Blyth Valley	44.9	39.6	+5.3
Castle Morpeth	56.6	49.4	+7.2
Chester-le-Street	49.0	40.8	+8.2
Darlington	48.7	40.5	+8.2
Derwentside	48.7	41.4	+7.3
Durham	47.7	42.3	+5.4
Easington	42.0	33.1	+8.9
Gateshead	48.3	46.7	+1.6
Hartlepool	42.4	37.3	+5.1
Middlesbrough	41.2	32.2	+9.0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	45.6	44.7	+0.9
North Tyneside	50.1	48.3	+1.8
Redcar and Cleveland	49.9	38.5	+11.4
Sedgefield	47.7	38.5	+9.2
South Tyneside	45.8	39.9	+5.9
Stockton-on-Tees	47.5	35.1	+12.4
Sunderland	42.9	39.3	+3.6
Teesdale	55.3	44.5	+10.8
Tynedale	55.0	48.1	+6.9
Wansbeck	46.0	39.2	+6.8
Wear Valley	49.1	39.5	+9.6
North East	47.1	41.0	+6.1

Minimal Unadjusted turnout

	Regional Referendum	European Parliament	Percentage point change
Alnwick	57.3	48.5	+8.8
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.6	44.8	+5.8
Blyth Valley	45.0	40.0	+5.0
Castle Morpeth	56.7	49.7	+7.0
Chester-le-Street	49.1	41.1	+8.0
Darlington	48.7	40.6	+8.1
Derwentside	48.9	41.9	+7.0
Durham	47.8	42.5	+5.3
Easington	42.1	33.5	+8.6
Gateshead	48.4	47.3	+1.1
Hartlepool	42.5	37.9	+4.6
Middlesbrough	41.3	32.3	+9.0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	45.7	46.0	-0.3
North Tyneside	50.1	49.3	+0.8
Redcar and Cleveland	50.0	38.9	+11.1
Sedgefield	47.7	38.7	+9.0
South Tyneside	45.8	41.4	+4.4
Stockton-on-Tees	47.6	35.2	+12.4
Sunderland	43.0	40.0	+3.0
Teesdale	55.4	44.8	+10.6
Tynedale	55.2	48.3	+6.9
Wansbeck	46.1	39.4	+6.7
Wear Valley	49.2	39.7	+9.5
North East	47.1	41.5	+5.6

Maximal Unadjusted turnout

	Regional Referendum	European Parliament	Percentage point change
Alnwick	57.4	48.8	+8.6
Berwick-upon-Tweed	52.3	45.6	+6.7
Blyth Valley	45.5	40.8	+4.7
Castle Morpeth	57.2	50.4	+6.8
Chester-le-Street	49.5	41.8	+7.7
Darlington	49.0	41.3	+7.7
Derwentside	49.1	42.3	+6.8
Durham	48.3	43.1	+5.2
Easington	42.5	34.1	+8.4
Gateshead	49.3	48.5	+0.8
Hartlepool	42.9	38.4	+4.5
Middlesbrough	42.1	33.3	+8.8
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	46.4	47.1	-0.7
North Tyneside	50.7	50.1	+0.6
Redcar and Cleveland	50.6	39.9	+10.7
Sedgefield	48.3	39.4	+8.9
South Tyneside	46.3	43.5	+2.8
Stockton-on-Tees	48.3	36.3	+12.0
Sunderland	43.4	41.4	+2.0
Teesdale	56.9	45.5	+11.4
Tynedale	55.4	48.9	+6.5
Wansbeck	46.6	40.1	+6.5
Wear Valley	49.9	40.4	+9.5
North East	47.7	42.5	+5.5

24. List of turnout (adjusted turnout, minimal unadjusted and maximal unadjusted turnout) in descending order of local authority for regional assembly question and comparison to June 10, 2004 (%)

	Adjusted turnout			Minimal unadjusted			Maximal unadjusted		
	Referendum	EP	Change	Referendum	EP	Change	Referendum	EP	Change
Alnwick	57.3	48.2	+9.1	57.3	48.5	+8.8	57.4	48.8	+8.6
Castle Morpeth	56.6	49.4	+7.2	56.7	49.7	+7.0	57.2	50.4	+6.8
Teesdale	55.3	44.5	+10.8	55.4	44.8	+10.6	56.9	45.5	+11.4
Tynedale	55.0	48.1	+6.9	55.2	48.3	+6.9	55.4	48.9	+6.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	50.5	44.4	+6.1	50.6	44.8	+5.8	52.3	45.6	+6.7
North Tyneside	50.1	48.3	+1.8	50.1	49.3	+0.8	50.7	50.1	+0.6
Redcar and Cleveland	49.9	38.5	+11.4	50.0	38.9	+11.1	50.6	39.9	+10.7
Wear Valley	49.1	39.5	+9.6	49.2	39.7	+9.5	49.9	40.4	+9.5
Chester-le-Street	49.0	40.8	+8.2	49.1	41.1	+8.0	49.5	41.8	+7.7
Darlington	48.7	40.5	+8.2	48.7	40.6	+8.1	49.0	41.3	+7.7
Derwentside	48.7	41.4	+7.3	48.9	41.9	+7.0	49.1	42.3	+6.8
Gateshead	48.3	46.7	+1.6	48.4	47.3	+1.1	49.3	48.5	+0.8
Durham	47.7	42.3	+5.4	47.8	42.5	+5.3	48.3	43.1	+5.2
Sedgefield	47.7	38.5	+9.2	47.7	38.7	+9.0	48.3	39.4	+8.9
Stockton-on-Tees	47.5	35.1	+12.4	47.6	35.2	+12.4	48.3	36.3	+12.0
Wansbeck	46.0	39.2	+6.8	46.1	39.4	+6.7	46.6	40.1	+6.5
South Tyneside	45.8	39.9	+5.9	45.8	41.4	+4.4	46.3	43.5	+2.8
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	45.6	44.7	+0.9	45.7	46.0	-0.3	46.4	47.1	-0.7
Blyth Valley	44.9	39.6	+5.3	45.0	40.0	+5.0	45.5	40.8	+4.7
Sunderland	42.9	39.3	+3.6	43.0	40.0	+3.0	43.4	41.4	+2.0
Hartlepool	42.4	37.3	+5.1	42.5	37.9	+4.6	42.9	38.4	+4.5
Easington	42.0	33.1	+8.9	42.1	33.5	+8.6	42.5	34.1	+8.4
Middlesbrough	41.2	32.2	+9.0	41.3	32.3	+9.0	42.1	33.3	+8.8
North East	47.1	41.0	+6.1	47.1	41.5	+5.6	47.7	42.5	+5.5

25. List of turnout (adjusted turnout, minimal unadjusted and maximal unadjusted turnout) in descending order of local authority for local government referendum question and comparison to June 10, 2004 (%)

	Adjusted turnout			Minimal unadjusted			Maximal unadjusted		
	Referendum	EP	Change	Referendum	EP	Change	Referendum	EP	Change
Alnwick	55.1	48.2	+6.9	56.3	48.5	+7.8	56.4	48.8	+7.6
Castle Morpeth	54.1	49.4	+4.7	55.4	49.7	+5.7	55.9	50.4	+5.5
Teesdale	52.9	44.5	+8.4	54.4	44.8	+9.6	55.2	45.5	+9.7
Tynedale	52.6	48.1	+4.5	54.0	48.3	+5.7	54.3	48.9	+5.4
Berwick-upon-Tweed	48.3	44.4	+3.9	49.5	44.8	+4.7	51.2	45.6	+5.6
Wear Valley	47.0	39.5	+7.5	48.3	39.7	+8.6	48.8	40.4	+8.4
Derwentside	46.9	41.4	+5.5	47.8	41.9	+5.9	48.1	42.3	+5.8
Chester-le-Street	46.5	40.8	+5.7	47.7	41.1	+6.6	48.3	41.8	+6.5
Durham	45.7	42.3	+3.4	46.8	42.5	+4.3	47.3	43.1	+4.2
Sedgefield	45.1	38.5	+6.6	46.3	38.7	+7.6	47.2	39.4	+7.8
Wansbeck	43.8	39.2	+4.6	45.0	39.4	+5.6	45.5	40.1	+5.4
Blyth Valley	42.8	39.6	+3.2	43.8	40.0	+3.8	44.4	40.8	+3.6
Easington	40.1	33.1	+7.0	41.1	33.5	+7.6	41.6	34.1	+7.5

26. For Two-tier areas: compare votes polled for yes/no with votes polled for options A/B

	Yes	No	Option A	Option B
Co Durham	50,252	134,314	89,149	87,050
Chester-le-Street	5,487	15,610	10,363	9,628
Derwentside	9,718	22,888	13,734	17,648
Durham	9,791	24,106	21,778	10,661
Easington	8,065	21,520	10,500	17,790
Sedgefield	9,040	23,583	17,312	13,511
Teesdale	2,020	8,972	4,334	6,177
Wear Valley	6,131	17,635	11,128	11,635
Northumberland	28,413	94,871	51,560	66,140
Alnwick	2,771	11,666	4,563	9,335
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,250	8,597	3,933	6,429
Blyth Valley	7,523	21,178	11,719	15,603
Castle Morpeth	4,776	16,952	11,116	9,641
Tynedale	5,146	20,975	10,125	14,830
Wansbeck	5,947	15,503	10,104	10,302

27. Rejected ballots for regional assembly question before count and change on 10 June, 2004, by local authority (as % of total ballots cast)

	Regional referendum	European Parliament	Change
Alnwick	0.1	0.7	-0.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3.2	1.8	+1.4
Blyth Valley	1.1	1.9	-0.8
Castle Morpeth	0.8	1.3	-0.5
Chester-le-Street	0.9	1.7	-0.8
Darlington	0.7	1.5	-0.8
Derwentside	0.5	1.0	-0.5
Durham	1.0	1.4	-0.5
Easington	1.1	1.7	-0.6
Gateshead	1.9	2.5	-0.6
Hartlepool	1.0	1.3	-0.3
Middlesbrough	1.9	3.2	-1.3
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1.6	2.3	-0.8
North Tyneside	1.1	1.7	-0.5
Redcar and Cleveland	1.3	2.6	-1.3
Sedgefield	1.2	1.8	-0.5
South Tyneside	0.9	4.9	-4.0
Stockton-on-Tees	1.5	3.2	-1.6
Sunderland	0.9	3.3	-2.4
Teesdale	2.6	1.6	+1.0
Tynedale	0.5	1.2	-0.7
Wansbeck	1.0	1.6	-0.6
Wear Valley	1.4	1.7	-0.3
North East	1.2	2.3	-1.1

28. Rejected ballots for regional assembly question at count and change on 10 June, 2004, by reason by local authority

	Voting for more than one Option	Writing or mark identifying voter	Unmarked or Void for Uncertainty	Total	% of ballots cast	% of ballots rejected at EP count	% Change
Alnwick	1	2	16	19	0.1	0.7	-0.5
Berwick-upon-Tweed	0	3	16	19	0.2	0.7	-0.5
Blyth Valley	0	5	19	24	0.1	1.1	-1.0
Castle Morpeth	0	4	34	38	0.2	0.7	-0.5
Chester-le-Street	1	1	23	25	0.1	0.8	-0.6
Darlington	2	6	28	36	0.1	0.4	-0.3
Derwentside	0	9	96	105	0.3	1.1	-0.8
Durham	4	12	64	80	0.2	0.4	-0.2
Easington	2	13	61	76	0.3	1.1	-0.9
Gateshead	10	8	92	110	0.2	1.2	-1.1
Hartlepool	3	20	35	58	0.2	1.6	-1.4
Middlesbrough	3	8	37	48	0.1	0.2	-0.1
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	7	17	90	114	0.1	2.6	-2.5
North Tyneside	13	24	40	77	0.1	2.0	-1.9
Redcar and Cleveland	5	9	83	97	0.2	1.0	-0.8
Sedgefield	0	4	22	26	0.1	0.4	-0.4
South Tyneside	4	16	42	62	0.1	3.4	-3.3
Stockton-on-Tees	6	19	55	80	0.1	0.1	0.0
Sunderland	3	4	187	194	0.2	1.9	-1.7
Teesdale	2	3	19	24	0.2	0.6	-0.3
Tynedale	0	4	45	49	0.2	0.3	-0.1
Wansbeck	11	5	43	59	0.3	0.5	-0.3
Wear Valley	1	6	52	59	0.2	0.5	-0.3
North East	77	200	1183	1460	0.2	1.3	-1.2

29. Rejected ballots for local government referendum question before count and change on 10 June, 2004, by local authority (%)

	Local government question	European Parliament	Change
Co Durham			
Chester-le-Street	1.2	1.7	-0.5
Derwentside	0.5	1.0	-0.5
Durham	1.0	1.4	-0.4
Easington	1.1	1.7	-0.6
Sedgefield	1.9	1.8	+0.1
Teesdale	1.5	1.6	-0.1
Wear Valley	0.9	1.7	-0.8
Northumberland			
Alnwick	0.1	0.7	-0.6
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3.3	1.8	+1.5
Blyth Valley	1.4	1.9	-0.5
Castle Morpeth	0.9	1.3	-0.4
Tynedale	0.5	1.2	-0.7
Wansbeck	1.0	1.6	-0.6

30. Rejected ballots for local government referendum question at count and change on 10 June, 2004, by reason by local authority

	Voting for more than one Option	Writing or mark identifying voter	Unmarked or Void for Uncertainty	Total	% of ballots cast	% of ballots rejected at EP count	% Change
Co Durham							
Chester-le-Street	5	1	534	540	2.6	0.8	+1.8
Derwentside	0	2	631	633	2.0	1.1	+0.9
Durham	17	2	796	815	2.4	0.4	+2.0
Easington	3	22	680	705	2.4	1.1	+1.3
Sedgefield	4	1	853	858	2.7	0.4	+2.3
Teesdale	1	2	306	309	2.8	0.6	+2.2
Wear Valley	14	9	621	644	2.7	0.5	+2.2
Northumberland							
Alnwick	2	6	286	294	2.1	0.7	+1.4
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2	2	270	274	2.5	0.7	+1.8
Blyth Valley	0	8	628	636	2.2	1.1	+1.1
Castle Morpeth	3	6	491	500	2.3	0.7	+1.6
Tynedale	10	11	646	667	2.6	0.3	+2.3
Wansbeck	16	9	571	596	2.8	0.5	+2.3

31. Breakdown of number of unopened envelopes returned to Assisted Delivery Points by local authority, number of envelopes returned by post before close of poll and total envelopes returned after close of poll by local authority

	Ballots returned to ADPs	Returned by post before close of poll	Returned after close of poll
Alnwick	1,466	13,117	14
Berwick-upon-Tweed	896	10,006	0
Blyth Valley	2,401	26,706	21
Castle Morpeth	1,025	20,819	2
Chester-le-Street	1,745	19,366	14
Darlington	2,913	34,499	30
Derwentside	2,207	30,681	29
Durham	2,101	31,978	21
Easington	1,723	28,259	121
Gateshead	4,807	65,096	94
Hartlepool	2,704	26,815	17
Middlesbrough	2,291	39,731	64
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	4,592	78,274	212
North Tyneside	4,910	65,927	45
Redcar and Cleveland	2,265	50,269	50
Sedgefield	2,076	30,958	42
South Tyneside	5,066	47,500	34
Stockton-on-Tees	3,595	59,754	133
Sunderland	9,373	81,154	79
Teesdale	920	10,198	11
Tynedale	1,737	24,626	21
Wansbeck	1,885	19,624	34
Wear Valley	2,131	22,086	25
North East	64,829	837,443	1,088

32. % of total envelopes received at ADPs on a daily basis by local authority.

	October											November			
	19	20	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Alnwick	1.0	2.7	3.3	4.6	0.0	3.6	4.9	7.6	5.9	8.4	0.0	7.4	9.3	10.3	30.8
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2.3	6.3	4.9	6.5	0.8	4.5	4.4	3.8	3.5	4.4	2.9	6.0	9.2	15.6	25.1
Blyth Valley	1.5	3.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	5.4	4.5	2.5	3.3	2.3	0.0	8.6	10.0	19.7	26.0
Castle Morpeth	2.0	6.3	4.1	1.2	0.0	4.0	4.1	0.7	2.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	12.4	23.0	36.0
Chester-le-Street	1.5	3.8	4.6	5.3	0.0	5.2	3.0	3.4	2.8	4.6	0.0	7.2	8.2	17.2	33.1
Darlington	3.0	6.0	6.9	6.1	3.1	10.1	3.9	3.2	2.3	3.5	2.2	6.6	7.5	13.1	22.5
Derwentside	0.5	2.6	6.8	4.4	0.0	4.9	3.9	3.9	2.8	4.3	0.0	8.3	8.0	17.5	32.0
Durham	1.0	2.5	4.6	7.9	0.0	4.2	4.2	2.5	3.0	3.2	0.0	6.9	9.1	16.0	34.8
Easington	0.8	6.7	8.2	5.6	0.0	4.6	3.7	3.8	2.9	3.8	0.0	8.7	8.4	19.0	23.9
Gateshead	1.5	4.9	7.3	9.1	0.0	8.8	4.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	0.0	7.2	7.7	15.5	23.5
Hartlepool	2.2	7.1	10.1	10.3	2.3	8.1	6.8	3.7	3.6	2.8	1.5	6.7	6.7	9.8	18.2
Middlesbrough	2.4	7.3	8.9	7.8	0.0	9.7	3.4	3.0	4.8	3.2	0.0	5.8	8.5	10.6	24.7
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0.5	0.9	6.2	8.0	0.0	6.6	3.2	0.5	1.2	9.1	0.0	2.7	8.6	12.0	40.5
North Tyneside	2.7	4.1	9.4	6.6	0.0	7.1	3.7	2.7	4.1	3.4	0.0	6.7	9.1	13.7	26.7
Redcar and Cleveland	3.2	7.5	7.9	5.6	1.5	7.7	4.0	4.1	2.4	2.8	0.4	7.0	7.2	16.6	22.2
Sedgefield	1.2	3.9	5.3	7.4	0.0	9.1	4.4	3.8	2.9	2.7	0.0	10.5	7.2	16.3	25.3
South Tyneside	2.0	6.1	8.8	7.3	0.0	7.0	5.8	3.3	3.6	3.8	0.0	7.8	7.9	15.3	21.2
Stockton-on-Tees	3.1	6.3	9.0	5.3	0.0	8.8	4.0	4.5	2.9	5.1	0.0	8.1	8.0	17.0	18.0
Sunderland	1.5	6.3	8.8	7.9	4.7	7.1	5.4	4.5	5.2	5.1	3.6	7.6	6.9	12.4	12.8
Teesdale	2.7	5.8	5.5	6.8	0.0	5.4	5.3	5.9	2.0	5.3	0.0	7.2	11.6	13.3	23.2
Tynedale	2.0	6.9	4.0	3.2	1.3	6.7	5.4	3.9	2.3	2.9	1.3	7.6	8.8	19.0	24.8
Wansbeck	0.8	3.0	4.5	6.3	0.0	0.0	11.6	3.1	4.0	3.0	0.0	8.3	13.5	19.6	22.3
Wear Valley	2.3	5.1	5.3	5.7	0.0	6.6	8.1	6.4	5.4	3.8	0.0	6.6	9.4	15.2	20.3
North East	1.8	5.0	7.3	6.9	1.0	6.9	4.8	3.5	3.5	4.3	0.8	7.0	8.3	14.8	24.0