

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date:	Tuesday 1st September, 2026
Time:	4.30 pm
Venue:	Mandela Room (Municipal Buildings)

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Fire Evacuation and Recording of Meetings

In the event the fire alarm sounds for more than 10 seconds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

Members of the public have the right to film, record or photograph public meetings. If you intend to do so, please advise the Chair of this intention. You may be asked to stop filming, photographing or recording a meeting if the Chair feels that the activity is disrupting the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned:

- *Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or*
- *Non-Pecuniary Interest (including personal or prejudicial interest)*

(2) the nature of the interest concerned.

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. **Minutes - Corporate Affairs Committee - 23 January 2025** 5 - 6
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. **Polling Districts and Places Review 2026** 7 - 18
For decision.
6. **Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.**

Charlotte Benjamin
Corporate Director of Legal and Corporate Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Friday 21 August 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors J Banks (Chair), L Young (Vice-Chair), E Clynch, D Coupe, L Lewis, J McTigue and G Wilson

Assistance in accessing information

The documents referred to on this agenda may be downloaded from the Council's Website: [Committee structure | Middlesbrough Council](#)

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information, such as alternative formats, please contact Scott Bonner, 01642 729708, scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk

INFORMATION ABOUT MIDDLESBROUGH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Venue Accessibility

All Committee Rooms are located on the first floor of Municipal Buildings (Town Hall). There is restricted disabled access to the first floor via a lift.

There is no on-site parking at Municipal Buildings. A map of town centre parking is attached below. A full map of town centre parking can be found on the Council's website: [Middlesbrough town centre parking plan - October 2025](#)



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This document was classified as: OFFICIAL

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on Thursday 23 January 2025.

PRESENT: Councillors J Rostron (Chair), D Coupe (Vice-Chair), G Wilson, I Blades, I Morrish and J Ewan

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Bonner, B Holloway and J Stuart

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors N Hussain

25/1 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed all those present and advised attendees of the fire evacuation procedure.

25/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

25/3 **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

The Returning Officer submitted a report for the Committee's consideration, the purpose of which was to seek approval of minor changes to polling places following a review.

The Returning Officer advised Members this was the first meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee this municipal year. Members were also advised that the recommendations being sought were time limited.

Members were advised that Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on local authorities to 'carry out and complete' reviews of polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015, and thereafter every five years.

The last review in Middlesbrough took place in October/November 2018 with the next review due for completion by 31 January 2025. As an interim review was completed in 2022, Electoral Services considered it appropriate to carry out an additional review following the scheduled combined Police and Crime Commissioner / Tees Valley Mayoral Elections on 2 May 2024. That review was delayed by the short notice UK Parliamentary Election held on 4 July 2024 and as such the intention was to introduce the findings from 1 February 2025.

The result of this review only affected two wards, Ladgate and Beechwood and the changes were required because existing buildings could no longer be used as polling stations.

Members discussed possible solutions for future reviews in 2027 including the use of caretaker buildings in schools that would prevent the school needing to close during elections periods. It was clarified that the Council could compel the use of a school for election purposes but were limited by what the school offered.

A Member commented that the proposals in the report would, essentially, affect by-elections in those areas and queried what would happen if elections were called before the new community facility was completed in Nunthorpe. It was clarified that Chandlers Ridge would continue to be a polling station as normal.

It was discussed that while Mobile stations could be used doing so was usually a last resort.

ORDERED that the Corporate and Affairs Committee approve:

1. The use of St Chad's Church as the polling place for polling district GC and Beech Grove Primary School as the polling place for polling district GD in Longlands and Beechwood ward.

23 January 2025

2. The amendments to the polling district boundaries so every elector living north of Ladgate Lane vote at Easterside Community Hub and those living south of Ladgate Lane vote at Marton Manor Primary School, in Ladgate ward.
3. The combination of polling districts TAM and TBM into a single polling district TAM with a polling place at Nunthorpe Methodist Church on Connaught Road.
4. Rename the existing TCM polling district to TBM and relocate the polling place from Chandlers Ridge Academy to the new community centre once this opens, in Nunthorpe ward.

25/4

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.

None.

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	The Returning Officer, Charlotte Benjamin
Submitted to:	Corporate Affairs Committee
Date:	1 September 2026
Title:	Polling Districts and Places Review 2026
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value

Proposed decision(s)
That Corporate Affairs Committee APPROVES the: • location of a new mobile polling station at the junction of Merlin Road and Kestrel Avenue to support voters on the Boyds Estate. • minor changes to other polling district boundaries to match the new ward boundaries. • proposed list of Polling Places to be used for all elections and referendums held from May 2027 until the next scheduled review in 2028/29.

Executive summary
New ward boundaries come into effect in Middlesbrough from the date of the next scheduled Local and Mayoral elections on 6 May 2027. Although the overall number of wards remains at 20, some ward boundaries will change meaning electors may have to vote at a different polling station to the one they have used previously. In particular, the Boyds Estate being moved into the new North Ormesby and Boyds ward means that an additional mobile polling station is required to serve that estate. Electoral Services carried out a review of all existing polling districts and polling places during the first half of 2026 and compiled a list of proposed polling places to suit the new ward boundaries. This was published on 1st July 2026, and feedback was invited from members of the public and elected representatives.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval to changes to polling stations, polling district boundaries and polling places for all elections and referendums held from May 2027 until the next scheduled review in 2028/29.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Corporate Affairs Committee

APPROVES the:

- location of a new mobile polling station at the junction of Merlin Road and Kestrel Avenue to support voters on the Boyds Estate.
- minor changes to other polling district boundaries to match the new ward boundaries.
- proposed list of Polling Places to be used for all elections and referendums held from May 2027 until the next scheduled review in 2028/29.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 2.2 New ward boundaries come into effect in Middlesbrough from the date of the next scheduled Local and Mayoral elections on 6 May 2027. Although the overall number of wards remains at 20, some ward boundaries will change meaning electors may have to vote at a different polling station to the one they have used previously.
- 2.3 The Boyds Estate was previously part of the Brambles and Thorntree ward. It was served by a mobile station until 2019 when following a review, it was agreed that this should be removed and electors from this estate would vote at Brambles Farm Community Centre. However, this estate is to be included in the new North Ormesby and Boyds ward and the existing polling stations in North Ormesby are located almost a mile from the estate. As there are no public buildings nearby it is proposed to reinstate the mobile station in its previous location.

3. Background and relevant information

- 3.1 A Polling District is defined as the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors. A Polling Place is defined as the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer. A Polling Station is the room or part of the building where the poll takes place. These are chosen by the Returning Officer for the election.
- 3.2 The choice of polling place will often be a balance between the quality (access, facilities, etc.) of a building and the distances between the residents' homes and that building compared to other options for polling places.
- 3.3 The Electoral Commission recommends that there be no more than 2,500 electors per polling station (excluding electors registered for a postal vote).

- 3.4 A key issue for the Council is that when conducting the review, all decisions made must have been consulted upon, be measured and practical. The whole process should be as transparent and open as possible to avoid possible conflict.
- 3.5 All polling districts and places are subject to a statutory review every 5 years to take into account population changes and new build developments etc which may necessitate adding, removing or amending a polling district or polling place. The last review in Middlesbrough took place in 2023/24 and the next is scheduled for 2028/29
- 3.6 New ward boundary arrangements for Middlesbrough were approved by Parliament in 2025 and will come into force on the date of the next scheduled elections, 6 May 2027. As a consequence, an interim review has been undertaken to match polling districts and places to the new ward boundaries.
- 3.7 The intention has been to continue to use existing polling places wherever possible, as these are familiar to electors in the area and provide the facilities needed.
- 3.8 The review has identified the need for one additional mobile station.
- 3.9 There are no changes to ward boundaries in the new Ayresome and Newport, Linthorpe West, Linthorpe East, Hemlington and Coulby Newham wards and therefore no changes are proposed to polling districts or polling places in these wards.
- 3.10 In Central ward the existing polling place at Breckon Hill School and approximately 610 electors served by it have moved to the new Longlands and Grove Hill ward. The proposal is to split the electors remaining in Central ward in this polling district between the existing stations at Abingdon Primary School and the International Centre, both of which are easily accessible from this part of the ward.
- 3.11 For the reasons stated at paragraph 2.2 of the report, in North Ormesby and Boyds ward it is proposed to reinstate a mobile station at the junction of Merlin Road and Kestrel Avenue.
- 3.12 In Acklam North ward there is an addition of approximately 10 electors from the Stainsby Grange area west of the A19. It is proposed that these electors will vote at the mobile station on Croft Avenue. Whilst none of the stations in this ward are particularly accessible for these electors, the journey is more straightforward than that to their previous polling place in Trimdon ward.
- 3.13 In Longlands and Grove Hill ward existing Central ward polling place at Breckon Hill School will remain, to serve the electors who previously voted there. It is not possible to combine these with the nearest existing station in this ward as this would take it over the 2500 recommended maximum electorate, particularly as this is a mobile station. The mobile station on Roseberry Road will lose approximately 120 electors to the new Beechwood and Easterside ward.

- 3.14 In Berwick Hills and Park End the polling place at Berwick Hills Primary School will gain approximately 36 electors from Dorien Crescent who previously voted at Pallister Park Primary School.
- 3.15 In Pallister and Priestfields ward it is proposed to keep the existing polling places. Approximately 91 electors in the Cobblewood and Creekwood area will move to Brambles and Thorntree ward.
- 3.16 In Brambles and Thorntree, Brambles Farm Community Centre will lose the electors on Boyds estate. Thorntree Community Hub will gain approximately 91 electors on Cobblewood and Creekwood.
- 3.17 In Trimdon Ward the mobile station loses approximately 16 electors from farms on the periphery of the ward. The station at Acklam Whin Primary school loses the Runswick Avenue/Sedgefield Road area to Kader ward.
- 3.18 In Kader ward the station at Kader Primary School loses approximately 265 electors to Acklam East and Tollesby Ward. St Margaret's Church Hall gains approximately 492 electors in the Runswick Avenue/Sedgefield Road area from Trimdon ward. Polling station electorate is still under 1500 and access to this station is straightforward for these electors.
- 3.19 In Acklam East and Tollesby ward there is the addition of 265 electors from Kader ward on Addcott Road, Bewley Grove, Cowley Road and Hall Drive. These electors have a straightforward journey to the existing station at Newham Grange Primary. The alternative would be to add them to polling district MA and use the station at Acklam Library, however with the ongoing development on St David's Way this would take the electorate at this station over the 2500 limit.
- 3.20 In Beechwood and Easterside ward there is the addition of approximately 121 electors in the Belle Vue Grove area and the hospital residences on Marton Road. These electors have a similar length journey to the station at Beech Grove Primary than to their previous polling station.
- 3.21 In Marton East ward the station at Captain Cook Primary school loses approximately 82 electors in The Wicketts and West Side.
- 3.22 In Stainton and Thornton ward the station at the Memorial Hall will become a dual station due to the addition of approximately 6 electors north of the A174 who fall outside of the parish boundary, and within the Middlesbrough and Thornaby East parliamentary constituency.
- 3.23 In Marton West ward the station at Marton Manor Primary school gains approximately 82 electors in The Wicketts and West Side. The mobile station at Fulford Way loses approximately 170 electors in the Plantation View area to Nunthorpe ward.
- 3.24 In Nunthorpe Ward the station at Nunthorpe Community Centre will become a dual station as the approximately 170 electors in the Plantation View area being added from Marton West ward fall outside of the parish boundary.

Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

- 3.25 Notice of the review and a list of proposed polling stations was sent to all ward members, the Mayor, The Tees Valley Mayor, both MPs and the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as Nunthorpe and Stainton and Thornton Parish Councils. It was also published on the Council's website and members of the public were invited to submit comments, with a month to respond.
- 3.26 Ward members for the existing Nunthorpe, Marton East and Newport wards expressed satisfaction with the proposed arrangements for their wards
- 3.27 Comments received from other ward members are discussed in Section 6 below.
- 3.28 Only one response was received from a member of the public, requesting that we do not use The Avenue School in Nunthorpe. Electoral Services confirmed to them that there was no intention to use The Avenue School.

4 Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 4.1 A ward member for the current Longlands and Beechwood ward expressed dissatisfaction with the proposals for the new Beechwood and Easterside ward, and proposed St Thomas More's Church Hall, a mobile on a field off Gleneagles Road, and the current station at St Chad's Church. These suggestions are not recommended since although the church hall is convenient for Beechwood, the residents in the north of the polling district and in particular those east of Marton Road in the Belle Vue Grove area will have a particularly long journey to this station, whereas locating the station at Beech Grove School as proposed makes it central for all parts of the polling district. The station at St Chad's Church has been used for the previous three elections and there are no changes to boundaries in this area. It is therefore not considered appropriate or necessary to locate another mobile station to serve this area.
- 4.2 The same member raised concerns that the station at Easterside Community Hub is an uphill walk for many residents of Easterside. Whilst this is true, the Hub is situated at the centre of the community and has been used as a polling place for many years. If electors in the northern part of Easterside used a station in Beechwood, they would still be faced with an uphill walk on their way home.
- 4.3 A member for Central ward indicated that an additional station was needed in the Lothian Road area. Residents in this area previously voted at Breckon Hill School which will be in the new Longlands and Grove Hill ward. Whilst it is acknowledged that the journey to Abingdon School is slightly longer than to their current station, it is not excessively long. In addition there are no public buildings in this area and no suitable land to situate a mobile station and associated portable toilet.
- 4.4 Two members in the current Park End and Beckfield ward suggested another station is required to serve the Ormesby area. This area was served by a station at Ormesby Methodist Church until the Church closed in 2018. From 2019 onwards electors in this area have voted at Glastonbury House. There are no changes to the polling district boundaries in this area and no reason to change this arrangement.

- 4.5 The Deputy Mayor queried why schools are used as polling places. Schools are used as they are often in the centre of their communities, familiar to local electors and meet accessibility requirements. In addition, they are also often the only public building in the locality. Paragraph 22 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 gives the Returning Officer the authority to enforce the use of schools; a power that is not available in respect of other buildings such as church premises. Whether or not school needs to close on election day is a matter for the Head Teacher and the Returning Officer will always work with schools to negotiate the use of an area which prevents this being necessary.

5. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	The cost of situating, equipping and staffing an additional mobile station to serve Boyds Estate will be approximately £2000 per election. With the next review due in 2028/29 we expect there to be two scheduled elections during the life of this review, therefore the total additional cost will be in the region of £4000.
Procurement	Not applicable as this is a report to approve new polling places following a Boundary Review.
Legal	Carrying out and completing this review ensures that the Council meets its obligations under Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
Risk	If the Council does not respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it would be in breach of statutory duties in relation to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable as this is a report to approve new polling places following a Boundary Review.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this is a report to approve new polling places following a Boundary Review.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable as this is a report to approve new polling places following a Boundary Review.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this is a report to approve new polling places following a Boundary Review.

Appendices

1	List of proposed polling places.
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
HM Government	Electoral Registration and Administration Act	2013

Contact: John Stuart
Email: john_stuart@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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Appendix One – List of Proposed Polling Places

Central Ward

St Aidan's Meeting Room, Head Street
International Centre, Abingdon Road
Abingdon Primary School, Abingdon Road

Ayresome and Newport Ward

Macmillan Academy, Stockton Road
Newport Community Hub, St Paul's Road
St Aidan's Centre, Clifton Street
ACTES Resource Centre, Meath Street
Redwood House, Ayresome Primary School, Parliament Road

North Ormesby and Boyds

North Ormesby Community Hub, Derwent Street
St Alphonsus RC Primary, Cadogan Street
Mobile Station, Kestrel Avenue

Acklam North

Mobile Station, Junction of Northern Road and Acklam Road
Whinney Banks Primary School
Mobile Station, Croft Avenue

Linthorpe West

Linthorpe Community School, Roman Road
Friends Meeting House, 131 Cambridge Road
Baptist Church Hall, Cambridge Road

Linthorpe East

Sacred Heart Academy, Ayresome Street
St Barnabas Church Hall, St Barnabas Road
Linthorpe Community Centre, 468 Linthorpe Road
St Edwards RC Primary School, Eastbourne Road

Longlands and Grove Hill

Grove Hill Community Hub
Breckon Hill Primary School
Mobile Station, Junction of Kildale Road and Roseberry Road

Berwick Hills and Park End

Berwick Hills Primary School, Westerdale Road
St Pius X Primary School, Amersham Road
Park End Primary School, Overdale Road

Pallister and Priestfields

Bellamy Court Residents' Lounge, Bellamy Court
Pallister Park Primary School, Gribdale Road
Corpus Christi RC Primary School, Cargo Fleet Lane
Glastonbury House, Lindisfarne Road

Brambles and Thorntree

Brambles Farm Community Centre, Marshall Avenue
Thorntree Community Hub, Birkhall Avenue
Thorntree Academy, The Greenway
Priory 16, Fulbeck Road

Trimdon

Mobile Station, Jack Simon Way
St Clare's RC Primary School, Trimdon Avenue
Acklam Whin Primary School, Carlbury Avenue

Kader

Acklam Grange School, Lodore Grove
Kader Academy, Staindrop Drive
St Margaret's Church Hall, The Oval
Mobile Station, Medina Gardens

Acklam East and Tollesby

Acklam Branch Library, Acklam Road
Middlesbrough Scout Headquarters, Tollesby Road
Newham Bridge Primary School, Cayton Drive

Beachwood and Easterside

St Chad's Church, Keith Road
Beech Grove Primary School, Beechwood Avenue
Easterside Community Hub, Broughton Avenue

Marton East

Middlesbrough Sports Village, Alan Peacock Way
Captain Cook Primary School, Stokesley Road
Marton Community Centre, Cypress Road

Stainton and Thornton

Stainton Memorial Hall, Meldyke Lane
Hemlington Hall Academy, Briscoe Way
Mobile Station, Junction of Hemlington Grange Way and Ravengill Road

Hemlington

Otterhill Court, The Oaks
Hemlington Library, Crosscliff
Hemlington Recreation Centre, Cass House Road
Viewley Hill Academy, Andover Way

Coulby Newham

Sunnyside Academy, Manor Farm Way
Langdon Square Community Centre
Lingfield Ash Meeting Hall
Rose Wood Academy, The Garth

Marion West

Marion Manor Primary School, The Derby
Normaby Court, Linden Crescent
Lingfield Primary School, Buxton Avenue
Mobile Station, Fulford Way

Nunthorpe

Nunthorpe Methodist Church, Connaught Road
Nunthorpe Community Centre, Stokesley Road

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