

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Date: Wednesday 28th February, 2024
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Mandela Room

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 7 February 2024 3 - 6
4. Executive Forward Work Programme 7 - 18
5. Executive Member Update - Environment
6. Local Government Boundary Review 2023/24 19 - 60
7. Scrutiny Chairs Update
8. Any other urgent items which, in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Tuesday 20 February 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, E Clynch, S Dean, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt, J Ryles, M Smiles, J Walker and J Young

Assistance in accessing information

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

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Wednesday 7 February 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, E Clynch, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt, J Young and D Coupe (Substitute for M Smiles)

OFFICERS: S Bonner

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors S Dean, J Ryles, M Smiles and J Walker

23/56 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

23/57 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 10 JANUARY 2024**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 January 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

23/58 **MINUTES- OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 18 JANUARY 2024**

A Member suggested paragraph three of Minute 23/54 should have read "Based on electorate projections the optimum ratio for Councillor to electorate was 2,112" rather than "Based on electorate projections the optimum ratio for Councillor to residents was 2,112."

ORDERED that:

1. The proposed amendment be accepted.
2. With the accepted amendment, the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

23/59 **EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive, as outlined in Appendix A to the report. The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a scrutiny panel.

A Member queried an exempt item entitled *Phase one Asset Sales* and if further information could be provided.

ORDERED

1. That the Democratic Services Officer approach the Director of Regeneration for further information relating to the exempt item relating to asset sales and feedback this back to the Member.
2. That the information presented be noted.

23/60 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE - ENVIRONMENT**

The Chair advised Members the Executive Member for Environment had submitted his apologies. This was for reasons outside of his control.

The Chair advised Members that an additional meeting of OSB was required to consider the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission. It was proposed the meeting be held on 28 February at 4.30pm.

It was also suggested that the Executive Member for Environment be invited to that meeting.

ORDERED that:

1. An additional OSB meeting be held on 28 February 2024

2. The Executive Member for Environment be invited to the OSB meeting of 28 February 2024.

23/61

BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023/ 2024 - UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update about the ongoing work regarding the Local Government Boundary Review in Middlesbrough.

Members were advised the first workshops had taken place and had been productive. Spread over two sessions, the workshops had centred around the southern wards and involved Members from those areas.

Different groups of Members had suggested variations to some ward boundaries which they felt better reflected the needs of those communities. It was hoped the second round of workshops to be held on 22 February would be as productive.

While the workshops were focussed on either the northern or southern wards, Members were free to comment on wards across the town. After the second round of workshops a report would be collated to form the Council's proposal.

A Member commented that, despite the scale of the task, a significant amount of progress had been made.

A Member commented the sessions had been positive and queried what weight the workshops would add to the Council submission. The Chair clarified the workshops were working to the Boundary Commission's criteria and that OSB would have the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal at its meeting on the 28 February 2024.

A Member commented the statistical data presented at the workshops was not necessarily accurate. The Chair responded this would be examined.

NOTED

23/62

OSB WORK PROGRAMME - DISCUSSION

The Chair discussed the Board's work programme with Members, specifically the review into Homelessness.

He advised that the homelessness topic had started with the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel in February 2023. At that meeting the Service Area had provided its view on how the homeless were supported and heard how homelessness impacted people's lives. However, following that meeting no definitive Terms of Reference were agreed for the review.

It was also highlighted that homelessness was a wide-ranging topic that touched on a variety of different subjects. As such the Chair proposed the review should focus on how the Council supported the homeless but also what was being done to get people out of homelessness should they find themselves in that position.

The Board was advised that instead of receiving information on a meeting-by-meeting basis enquiry day may prove to be the best approach.

To do this it was suggested that best practice examples would be gathered with a range of expert witnesses being approached, such as Street Zero Shelter and Crisis.

It was commented that Scrutiny worked best when it explored areas of best practice to understand where improvements could be made.

AGREED

1. That the Terms of Reference for the homeless review would focus on assistance provided to the homeless and efforts made to remove people from homelessness.
2. Specific Terms of Reference would be created and agreed by OSB as part of the Review Planning process.

23/63 SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair invited individual Scrutiny Chairs to provide their update.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel advised the last time the Panel met it discussed the budget proposals for Children's Services. While the Panel was scheduled to meet in February, this meeting had been cancelled. The next meeting would be March where the Panel would continue to look at school attendance.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel advised the Board the Panel had conducted a review into Opioid Dependency in 2021. The Director of Public Health would be in attendance at the Panel's next meeting on 19 February to receive an update on actions associated with that review.

The Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel advised Members the Panel had met on 17 January and considered the budget proposals for the Regeneration Department in information on the draft Local Plan. The Panel also received information relating to Planning Capacity by the Head of the Planning Service. At the Panel's next meeting Members would receive information from the Assistant Director of Planning at South Hams and West Devon Council regarding shared services.

NOTED**23/64 ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

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Report of:	Chief Executive
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board – 28 February 2024
Subject:	Executive Forward Work Programme

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Information	No	N/A	N/A

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.

Ward(s) affected
All Wards affected equally

What is the purpose of this report?

To make OSB aware of items on the Executive Forward Work Programme.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

The OSB has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny and, if appropriate, it can either undertake the work itself or delegate to individual Scrutiny Panels.

One of the main duties of OSB is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and decide whether value can be added by Scrutiny considering the matter in advance of any decision being made.

This would not negate a Non-Executive Member’s ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

Not Applicable

Financial

Not Applicable

Policy Framework

The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable

Risk

Not Applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

Implement any decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with regard to the Executive Forward Work Plan.

Appendices

The most recent copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme (FWP) schedule is attached as Appendix A for the Board's information.

Background papers

Executive Forward Work Plan

Contact: Scott Bonner
Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk



Forward Plan 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health							
I018180 All Wards	The Council Plan 2024-27 To seek Executive endorsement of the Council Plan 2024-27 and its related strategic priorities and ambitions	Executive 28 Feb 2024			Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Gemma Cooper</i> <i>gemma_cooper@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018173 All Wards	Social Value Policy to seek approval of the first social value policy and supporting charter	Executive 13 Mar 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Mark Adams, Director of Public Health - South Tees</i> <i>mark_adams@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact	
Page 10	I018287 All Wards	Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel - Dental Health and the Impact of Covid- 19 - Service Response This report provides the findings of a scrutiny review into the oral health of Middlesbrough's population and the accessibility of NHS dentistry services locally, for both adults and children	Executive 13 Mar 2024			Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Rebecca Scott</i> <i>Rebecca_Scott@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture							
I018379 All Wards	Schools Capital Programme 2024 The report proposes new capital maintenance and strategic school capital schemes. The report requires Executive approvals as the proposed expenditure is in excess of £250k	Executive 10 Apr 2024		KEY			Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Gary Maddison</i> <i>Gary_Maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>	

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Executive Member for Children's Services							
I018045 All Wards	Residential and Supported Accommodation for Children in Care and Care Leavers Inform Executive of the plans for achieving key savings by reducing high-cost placements, increasing in house placements and partnering with commissioned providers.	Executive 28 Feb 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Dawn Alaszewski</i> <i>dawn_almazewski@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Community Safety							
Executive Member for Environment							
I018128 All Wards	Trading with Schools Decision on the 2024-2025 trading position in respect of school cleaning.	Executive 13 Mar 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Geoff Field</i> <i>geoff_field@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017724 All	Gambling Policy 2024-2029	Executive 1 Jun 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Community Safety

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Wards	Statutory requirement to have gambling policy to place.						<i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017712 All Wards	Statement of Licensing Policy 2024-2029 Statutory requirement that this policy is approved by full Council.	Council 1 Jun 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Finance and Governance							
I018158 All Wards	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 The report sets out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25	Executive 28 Feb 2024					Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Andrew Humble andrew_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018157 All Wards	2024/25 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan, and Council Tax setting To brief Executive on the setting of the	Executive 28 Feb 2024		KEY			Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Andrew Humble andrew_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Page 13	2024/25 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan, and Council Tax. The MTFP incorporates the revenue budget, capital programme, and capital strategy. The report will be presented to Council on 28 February 2024 for approval by Full Council.						
	18235	Monitoring of Hate Incidents Policy Corporate Equality and Inclusion Policies – triennial refresh	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 13 Mar 2024		Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Leanne Hamer</i> <i>leanne_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
	I018237	Equality and Inclusion Policy Corporate Equality and Inclusion Policies – triennial refresh	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 13 Mar 2024		Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Leanne Hamer</i> <i>leanne_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
	I018236	Equality Monitoring Policy Corporate Equality and Inclusion	Executive Member for Finance and Governance		Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Leanne Hamer</i> <i>leanne_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Policies – triennial refresh	13 Mar 2024					<i>h.gov.uk</i>
1018132 All Wards	Discretionary Rates Relief Set out clear guiding principles and update the conditions relating to the approval of Discretionary Rate Relief	Executive 13 Mar 2024		KEY			Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Sue Blakey</i> <i>sue_blakey@Middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1018129 All Wards	ASC Non Residential Charging Policy (Fairer Charging Policy) To formalise the current working practices into a new Council policy in respect of Adult Social Care Non Residential Services	Executive 13 Mar 2024		KEY			Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Martin barker</i> <i>martin_barker@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1018131 All Wards	Discretionary Housing Payment Following the approval of the 'Credit Their Service Motion' passed through Council on	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 20 Mar 2024		KEY			Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Martin barker</i> <i>martin_barker@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	25.10.23 the policy requires updating to reflect the motion.						
1018344 All Wards	Debt Management Policy Following approval of the new Council Constitution and increase in the Council's key decision threshold the policy requires updating to reflect the financial regulations and processes.	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 20 Mar 2024					Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Janette Savage, Head of Resident and Business Support</i> <i>Janette_Savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1018345 All Wards	Debt Write Off Policy Following approval of the new Council Constitution and increase in the Council's key decision threshold the policy requires updating to reflect financial regulations and processes	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 20 Mar 2024					Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Janette Savage, Head of Resident and Business Support</i> <i>Janette_Savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1016676 All Wards	Corporate Procurement Strategy 2023-2026	Executive 10 Apr 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.						<i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1018448 All Wards Page 16	Tender Pipeline 2024/25 To seek Executive approval of the Middlesbrough Council tender pipeline for 2024/25 including the delegation of responsibility for award to the relevant Director in consultation with their Executive member.	Executive 10 Apr 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Louise Grabham, Head of Strategic Commissioning + Procurement</i> <i>louise_grabham@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Regeneration							
1018106 All Wards	EXEMPT - Phase 1 Asset Sales Decision required to facilitate the first sales arising from the recent asset review	Executive 13 Mar 2024		KEY	Fully exempt		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
I017049 All Wards	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the financial and policy framework.	Executive 10 Apr 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Teresa Garret</i> <i>teresa_garret@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	8 March 2024
Title:	Ward Boundary Review – Council Warding Patterns (Phase Two)
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will have a significant impact in two or more wards
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England.

Each year, the LGBCE considers electoral data to establish if there is a need for an electoral review. The LGBCE carry out a review if electoral inequality is identified or if it is more than 10 years since the last review. Middlesbrough’s last review was carried out in 2013, therefore the LGBCE advised the Council that it would be carrying out a review because 10 years had passed.

Phase One, which considered councillor size, was considered first, followed by Phase Two which examines warding patterns.

Overview and Scrutiny Board considered and approved the Council’s submission for Phase 1 of the review at its meeting of 18th October ahead of the deadline of 31st October 2023. After consideration of the Council’s submission that Councillor numbers increase from 46 to 47 the LGBCE was minded to maintain Councillor numbers at 46.

Phase 2 of the review has focussed on ward patterns and considers number of wards, boundaries between wards, names of each ward and numbers of councillors elected to each ward.

Following an engagement process which was open to all Councillors during a series of workshops, several proposals have been suggested which are contained in Appendix 2 and which were approved for submission to the LGBCE at OSB on the 28th February 2024.

Council is asked to approve the proposal for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission ahead of its 11 March deadline.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present Members with the final submission regarding Phase Two (Warding Patterns) to the Local Government Boundary Commission in respect of the forthcoming Electoral Review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council

- Approves the submission of the proposals at Appendix 2 to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in respect of Phase Two (Warding Patterns) of their electoral review of Middlesbrough 2023/24.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 Councils play a major part in promoting local democracy and provide pathways by which people can influence decision making. The task of the LGBCE is to establish and maintain the conditions for a fair and representative democracy at a local level. During an electoral review the LGBCE will work closely alongside members and officers in order to determine the best electoral arrangements that will work to support the Council and its ambitions for the people of Middlesbrough.
- 3.2 Phase Two of the review provides Members the opportunity to comment on the community characteristics of their wards and, as community champions, to provide insight into effective warding patterns for the town.
- 3.3 By submitting a proposal in respect of the warding patterns, the views of members and the communities that they represent will be considered by the LGBCE when making their recommendations.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.2 In March 2023 the LGBCE informed the Council that it was to carry out an Electoral Review of Middlesbrough Council in order to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections.
- 4.3 The LGBCE calculates electoral equality in an authority by dividing the number of electors in a ward by the number of Councillors elected to represent that ward. This gives an 'electoral ratio'. High levels of electoral equality for a local authority will be a situation where a high proportion of wards across the authority have roughly the

same electoral ratio and where no ward or division has a ratio which is significantly above, or below, the average for the authority, and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. The review will also look at creating ward patterns that are appropriate, reflecting community ties and identities.

- 4.4 On 26 July 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Board received an overview of the proposed Ward Boundary review. The overview covered how the review would take place and the timescales involved. It was explained the process consisted of two phases the first focussing on overall size of the Council – that is the number of elected Members that the Council requires to properly undertake its duties and responsibilities.
- 4.5 Phase One of the electoral review is to determine the number of Councillors who should represent the local authority, referred to by the LGBCE as determining 'council size'.
- 4.6 The LGBCE required that in determining the number of Councillors, it agreed the Council's projected electorate for 2029. Based on Office for National Statistics data, and the methodology set out by the Commission, Middlesbrough's projected electorate for 2029 was 104,225 based on the 2023 baseline of 97,154 which was agreed with the Commission.
- 4.7 The Phase One submission was considered and approved by OSB and was submitted in advance of the deadline of 31st October 2023. It suggested an increase in Councillors from 46 to 47.
- 4.8 The LGBCE carefully considered the submission made by the Council on the number of members Middlesbrough should have. It considered there was insufficient evidence to justify the proposed increase to 47 and was therefore minded recommending that 46 Councillors should be elected to the council in future.
- 4.9 On 19 December 2023 the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive informing him that the next stage of the Electoral Review was commencing, and this stage was to consider the new pattern of ward arrangements for the town, based on a Council size of 46 Councillors. The LGBCE also informed the Council that the closing date for representations would be 11 March 2024.

5. Phase Two: Consideration of the Warding Pattern for the town

- 5.2 In considering the warding pattern for an Authority, the LGBCE has regard to the statutory criteria set down in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. In broad terms these are:

The need to secure equality of representation

- 5.3 Each Councillor under the new warding arrangements must represent between +/- 10% of the average.
- 5.4 Given the Council size of 46 Members, and the projected electorate of 104,225, the optimum Member: elector ratio is 2,266 per Member.

5.5 To fall within the +/-10% of average requirement, this gives a target range of between 2,033 and 2,500 electors per Councillor under the new warding arrangements.

The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

5.6 The Commission will look for strong boundaries and defined communities.

5.7 Factors such as access to public or other facilities, travel and communications should be considered. The location of doctors' surgeries, hospitals, libraries or schools could be relevant factors. Access to shops and other services could also be relevant, as might an area's history, culture, and traditions.

5.8 The existence and activities of residents' associations and local voluntary organisations might contribute to the evidence of community identity and interest.

5.9 Importantly, the Commission will require well-argued evidence of community identity if it is to be persuaded to move from equality in the number of electors each Councillor represents.

The need to secure effective and convenient local government

5.10 The Commission will be looking for factors such as coherent wards with good transport links. There should be reasonable road links across the ward so that it can be easily traversed, and so that all electors in the ward can engage in the affairs and activities of all parts of the ward without having to travel through an adjoining ward.

5.11 Wards should not be so large in terms of physical extent or electorate that it prevents a Councillor from effectively representing the people in it

5.12 The Commission takes the view that wards or divisions returning more than three Councillors results in a dilution of accountability to the electorate. Consequently, it will not normally recommend a number above that figure.

6. Process

6.2 Following the practice adopted during the previous Ward Boundary Review it was decided that the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) would co-ordinate the Council's submissions to the LGBCE.

6.3 OSB first considered the second phase of the review at its meeting held on 18 January 2024. It was the view of OSB that managing the development of the Council's submission to the Commission through the Scrutiny process, prior to discussion and approval by full Council, would result in more meaningful opportunities for democratic participation by all Members of the Council than simply to have a debate (or debates) in full Council. OSB therefore resolved to hold 4 workshop sessions to manage the preparation of the Council's submission.

- 6.4 In order to engage as many Members as possible in the process, and in particular to utilise their knowledge of the communities that they represent, OSB agreed to run workshops to which all Members of the Council were invited to participate. The workshops were run during the day and the evening in order to maximise the opportunity of Members to attend. The workshops were structured around the Southern Wards of the town (Coulby Newham, Hemlington, Kader, Ladgate, Marton East, Marton West, Nunthorpe, Park End and Beckfield, Stainton & Thornton, Trimdon) and the Northern Wards of the Town (Acklam, Ayresome, Brambles & Thorntree, Berwick Hills & Pallister, Central, Linthorpe, Longlands & Beechwood, Newport, North Ormesby, Park). Nineteen Councillors participated across the four workshops.
- 6.5 In phase two the LGBCE requires the Council to meet the statutory criteria of Electoral equality for voters (eg, all voters should carry the same weight, based on forecast electorate); Community identities and interests (eg, all communities should be represented); and Effective and Convenient local government (eg, coherent wards that are logical to represent)
- 6.6 In consideration of the statutory criteria, the objectives of the workshops were:
- To utilise members knowledge of the communities that they represent mapping identifiable, strong, ‘natural’ communities with which electors identity strongly and/ or have identifiable interests
 - Considering the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government.

7. Initial Considerations

7.2 The following Wards were identified as falling outside a 10% variance of the optimum Councillor to elector ratio:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Variance from Optimum Ratio</u>
Stainton & Thornton	+80%
Central	+15%
Trimdon	+13%
North Ormesby	-15%
Berwick Hills & Pallister	-17%
Park End & Beckfield	-20%

7.3 While Central and Trimdon Wards had a higher than 10% variance, feedback from the workshops was these two wards did not need to be changed because of their physical and community makeups.

7.4 Working on the predicted 2029 elector population already agreed with the

Commission (as part of the Council size consultation) the variance, based on the current ward structure, can be found at Appendix 1.

7.5 Overview & Scrutiny Board has considered a number of matters. These include:

Projected build and demolitions

7.6 The projected elector population figures agreed with the Commission have taken into account the best available estimates relating to new build housing that will come into occupation between now and beyond 2029.

7.7 However, given the current national and regional economic climate, these projections cannot be assured. OSB is mindful of the fact that any major fluctuation in these figures could trigger a further review.

7.8 Again, with a mind to future-proofing its recommendations, OSB noted that there are areas of town where there is little opportunity for new build, and areas of town – particularly the southern fringes of the area where new build is far more likely.

7.9 In view of this, if there is to be a variance of greater than +/-10% from the optimum elector/Councillor ratio, then wherever possible variance between 10% and 15% should be limited to areas of town where fewer opportunities for development exist.

8. Member Workshops

8.2 Council officers convened four workshops for members to engage with the review process. Each workshop lasted three hours and 19 members attended the workshops which is a significant increase on the degree of engagement with the boundary review process in 2013.

8.3 Members were asked to identify what they considered to be identifiable, strong, 'natural' communities with which electors identified strongly and/ or have identifiable interests. They were also asked to consider the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government. Over the nearly 12 hours of discussion members and officers took great care to address community links and to draw boundaries that would best refer to local identity and community consciousness. The workshops were universally well-received by members with a wide range of cross-party contributions and collaboration by members and varied suggestions around how the boundaries could be redrawn effectively.

8.4 During the workshops Members were mindful of elector numbers with any proposals but their primary consideration was community interest. Due to this it was felt that all other wards did not need to change even if their elector variance was above or below 10%.

8.5 All proposals made during the workshops were considered by the Overview

and Scrutiny Board on 28 February 2024. OSB deliberated the proposals and found they were all valid and well thought out. Only one proposal was not included as part of the Council's submission, and this can be found in Appendix 4. The proposals approved for inclusion in the Council's submission can be found at Appendix 2.

9. Proposals

- 9.2 While the details of each ward proposals can be found in Appendix 2, it is important to stress these proposals are made adhering to the statutory requirements described above while being mindful of the Boundary Commission's recommendation that overall Councillor size remain at 46.
- 9.3 Most of the changes proposed are within the East Middlesbrough area. As Appendix 2 highlights, this area of Middlesbrough has several distinct and common characteristics whose community narratives have been grouped together to try and reflect this.
- 9.4 East Middlesbrough (currently North Ormesby, Berwick Hills and Pallister, Brambles and Thorntree and Park End and Beckfield) was identified early in the process as an area where it would be necessary to delete one Councillor from the overall total with a concomitant extra Councillor required in the South of the town due to projected housing developments.
- 9.5 The wards in East Middlesbrough are a self-contained area with strong community connections. They are bordered to the East and South by Redcar and Cleveland, to the North by the railway line and A66 and to the West by the railway line and the beck valley.
- 9.6 As a result, any changes would need to be within the confines of those clearly identified boundaries. For example- linking the East Middlesbrough Wards with wards to the West beyond the beck valley and the hospital would encroach into the Marton area which has no community or geographical link. The workshops deliberated at length over how to redraw the East Middlesbrough Boundaries and the ward Councillors across all political groups were in agreement that the Council's proposed changes met the well-defined community connections within East Middlesbrough to a much greater degree than the current boundaries.
- 9.7 The proposals for East Middlesbrough have changed optimum Councillor/ electorate variances, however there were no iterations that would not have changed these variances without affecting other wards whose variances fell within tolerance.
- 9.8 It could also be argued that the proposed changes to the variances in East Middlesbrough is a positive given this area's relatively high deprivation levels which increases access to elected Members.
- 9.9 Proposals were also made for name changes only to some wards. This was partly for community purposes but also efficient and effective local government purposes. These suggestions can be found at Appendix 3.

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

10.2 Do nothing – the Council is not required to submit its own proposal. However, the Boundary Commission will make proposals irrespective of other representations. As such it is essential to form a submission to ensure the Council's views are taken into consideration.

10.3 There is an opportunity for all individuals, including Councillors, and political groups, to submit proposals in respect of Council size and they have been encouraged to do so outside of this process if they have further information they wish to be considered.

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

Financial (including procurement and social Value)

11.2 There are no immediate financial implications as the decision being sought is the approval of a proposal for consideration by the Local Government Boundary Commission within their review. The decision as to the warding pattern is ultimately that of the Local Government Boundary Commission.

11.3 Any changes to the Ward Boundaries made by the Local Government Boundary Commission will come into effect in May 2027.

11.4 Should the proposals as at Appendix 2 be adopted, there are the following financial considerations:

- a) The number of members will remain at 46 therefore the cost of members allowance will not increase in number, but may of course increase in line with changes to allowances as it would in any event.
- b) There will be a requirement for an additional one or two polling stations in each local election. This may come with a small cost, dependent on the location and nature of the station.
- c) As the ward boundary for Nunthorpe ward is suggested to change, some houses will move into the are of Nunthorpe Parish Council and will therefore be required to pay the Nunthorpe Parish precept. The amount that this equates to is not known at this stage.

11.5 There will be an opportunity for Council to consider the proposed changes once they are shared by the Local Government Boundary Commission in June 2024. At this stage we will be able to fully cost the financial implications of the suggested changes.

Legal

11.6 There are no legal implications in relation to this decision as this is simply a proposal for a decision that will be made by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

11.7 Once the recommendations in regards to the ward boundaries are made, the Local Government Boundary commission will take this through the relevant parliament route.

Risk

11.8 This submission contributes to the Council’s Quality of Service strategic objective; *We will ensure that we place communities at the heart of what we do, continue to deliver value for money and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough.*

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

11.9 No protected groups are affected by the decision.

Climate Change/Environmental

11.10 Not applicable

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

11.11 Not applicable

Data Protection / GDPR

11.12 There are no data protection or GDPR to consider as a result of the decision.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Submit Council Size Submission to Local Government Boundary Commission	Ann-Marie Wilson	11 March 2024

Appendices

1	Ward Variance Data
2	Ward Boundary Proposals
3	Ward Name Proposals

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin – Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Table 1 – Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using existing warding patterns.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>North/South</i>	<i>Cllrs</i>	<i>Ward Electorate (2029 Projections)</i>	Avg. Elector per Cllr (2029) Projections	<i>Electorate per Cllr (Projections 2029)</i>	<i>"Drift" between Electorate Per Cllr and 2,266 Average</i>	<i>Variance from Average</i>
Stainton & Thornton	South	1	4,082	2,266	4,082	1,816	80%
Central	North	3	7,804	2,266	2,601	335	15%
Trimdon	South	2	5,104	2,266	2,552	286	13%
Marton East	South	2	5,001	2,266	2,500	234	10%
Nunthorpe	South	2	4,802	2,266	2,401	135	6%
Longlands & Beechwood	North	3	7,185	2,266	2,395	129	6%
Park	North	3	6,920	2,266	2,307	41	2%
Newport	North	3	6,762	2,266	2,254	-12	-1%
Linthorpe	North	2	4,476	2,266	2,238	-28	-1%
Kader	South	2	4,458	2,266	2,229	-37	-2%
Ayresome	North	2	4,453	2,266	2,226	-40	-2%
Acklam	North	2	4,419	2,266	2,209	-57	-2%
Marton West	South	2	4,403	2,266	2,201	-65	-3%
Ladgate	South	2	4,388	2,266	2,194	-72	-3%
Hemlington	South	2	4,296	2,266	2,148	-118	-5%
Brambles & Thorntree	North	3	6,331	2,266	2,110	-156	-7%
Coulby Newham	South	3	6,278	2,266	2,093	-173	-8%
North Ormesby	North	1	1,932	2,266	1,932	-334	-15%
Berwick Hills & Pallister	North	3	5,675	2,266	1,892	-374	-17%
Park End and Beckfield	South	3	5,457	2,266	1,819	-447	-20%

Chart 1 - Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using existing warding patterns.

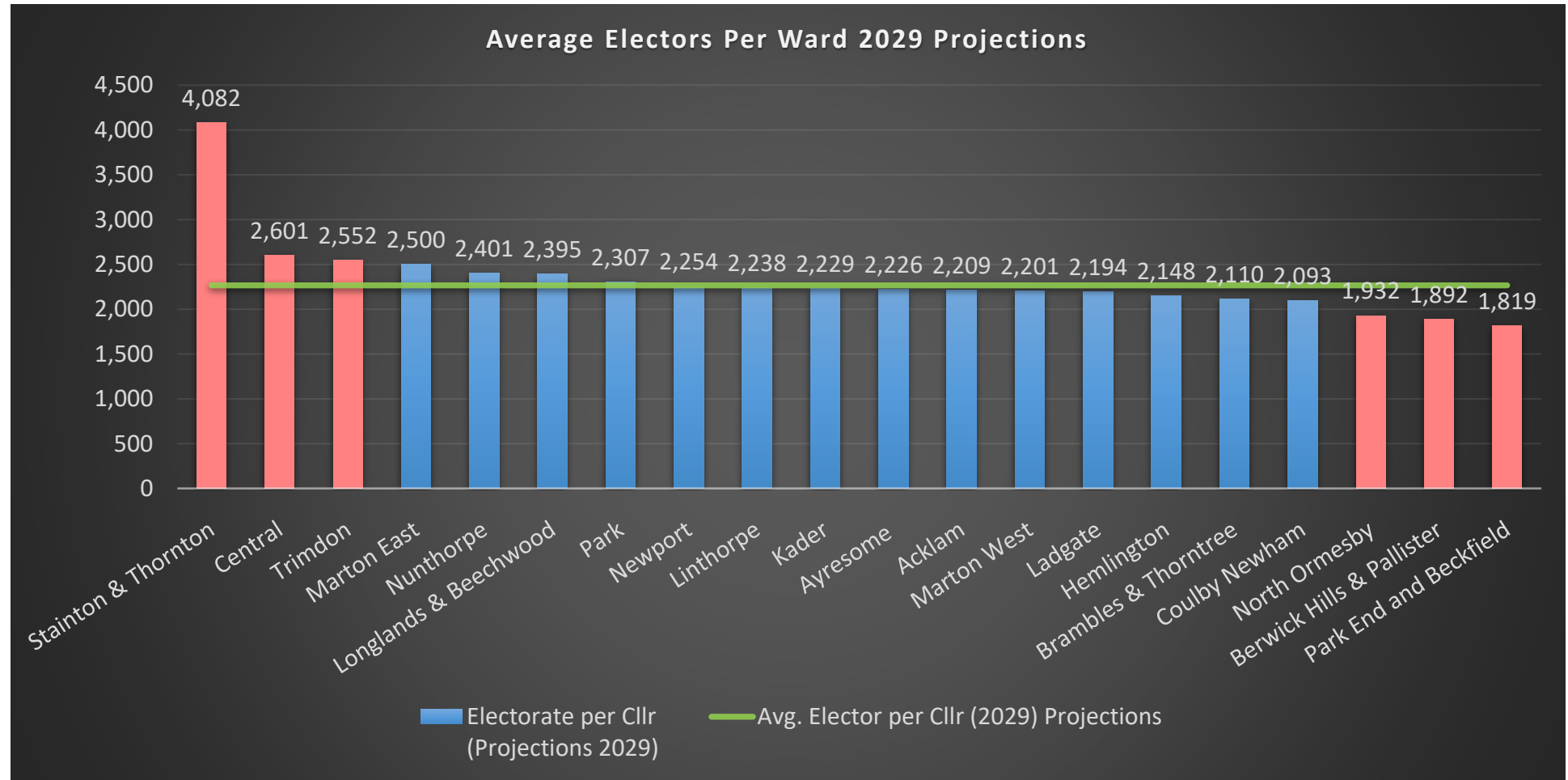
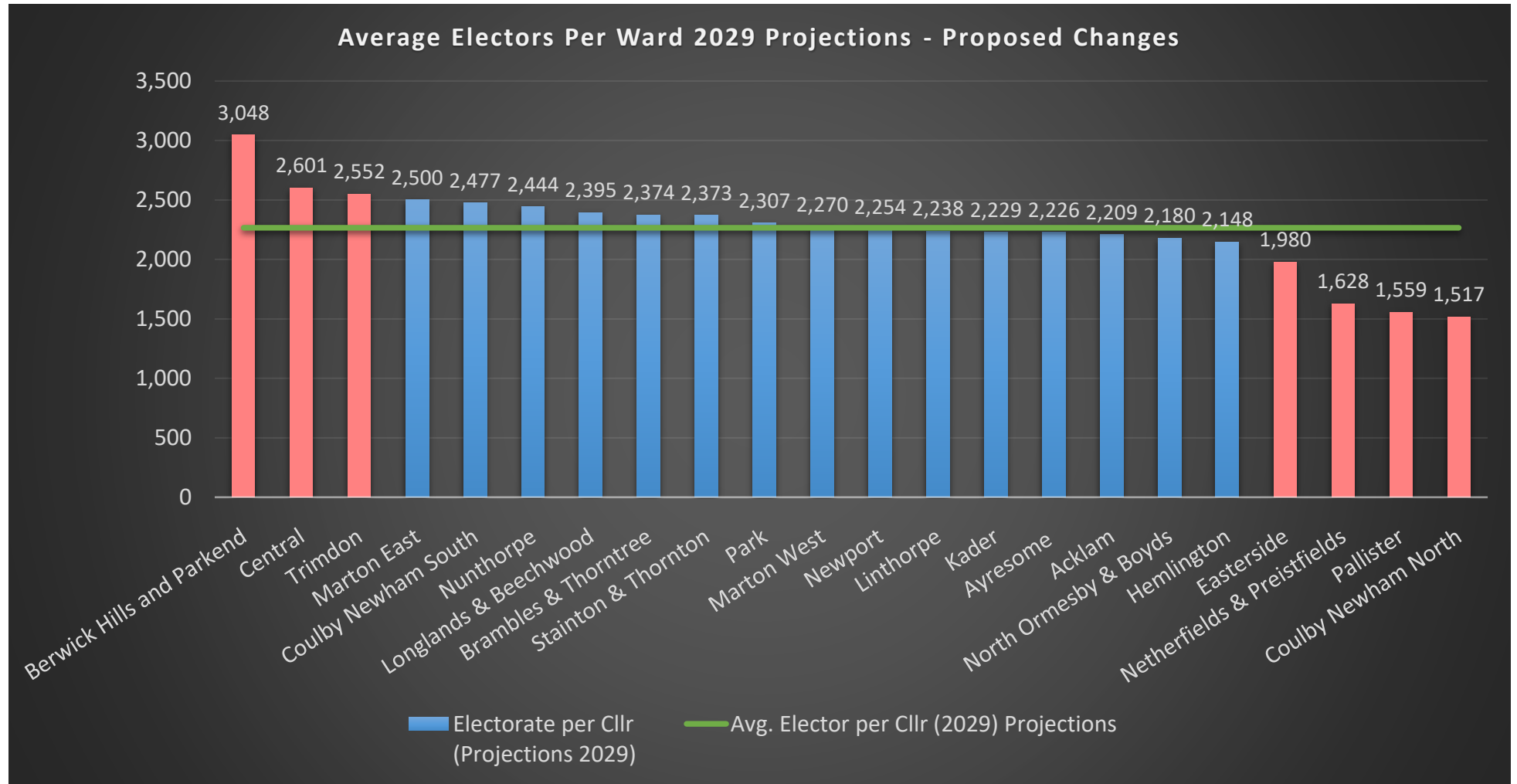


Table 2 - Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using following Member workshops. Wards that have been amended are highlighted in yellow. The proposals create two additional wards while maintaining the overall Councillor number of 46. While the proposals create greater variances for Easterside, Beckfield, Pallister and Coulby Newham North those variances

Ward	North/South	Cllrs	Ward Electorate (2029 Projections)	Avg. Elector per Cllr (2029) Projections	Electorate per Cllr (Projections 2029)	"Drift" between Electorate Per Cllr and 2,266 Average	Variance from Average
Berwick Hills and Parkend	South	2	6,095	2,266	3,048	782	34%
Central	North	3	7,804	2,266	2,601	335	15%
Trimdon	South	2	5,104	2,266	2,552	286	13%
Marton East	South	2	5,001	2,266	2,500	234	10%
Coulby Newham South	South	2	4,953	2,266	2,477	211	9%
Nunthorpe	South	2	4,887	2,266	2,444	178	8%
Longlands & Beechwood	North	3	7,185	2,266	2,395	129	6%
Brambles & Thorntree	North	2	4,747	2,266	2,374	108	5%
Stainton & Thornton	South	1	2,373	2,266	2,373	107	5%
Park	North	3	6,920	2,266	2,307	41	2%
Marton West	South	3	6,811	2,266	2,270	4	0%
Newport	North	3	6,762	2,266	2,254	-12	-1%
Linthorpe	North	2	4,476	2,266	2,238	-28	-1%
Kader	South	2	4,458	2,266	2,229	-37	-2%
Ayresome	North	2	4,453	2,266	2,226	-40	-2%
Acklam	North	2	4,419	2,266	2,209	-57	-2%
North Ormesby & Boyds	North	1	2,180	2,266	2,180	-86	-4%
Hemlington	South	2	4,296	2,266	2,148	-118	-5%
Easterside	North	1	1,980	2,266	1,980	-286	-13%
Netherfields & Preistfields	South	2	3,255	2,266	1,628	-639	-28%
Pallister	North	2	3,117	2,266	1,559	-708	-31%
Coulby Newham North	South	2	3,034	2,266	1,517	-749	-33%

Chart 2- Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using following Member workshops.



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CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR REVISED WARDING

Coulby Newham North

Physical Characteristics

The physical characteristics adhere to the existing northern part of the Coulby Newham ward ie, all of the land north of Stainton Way.

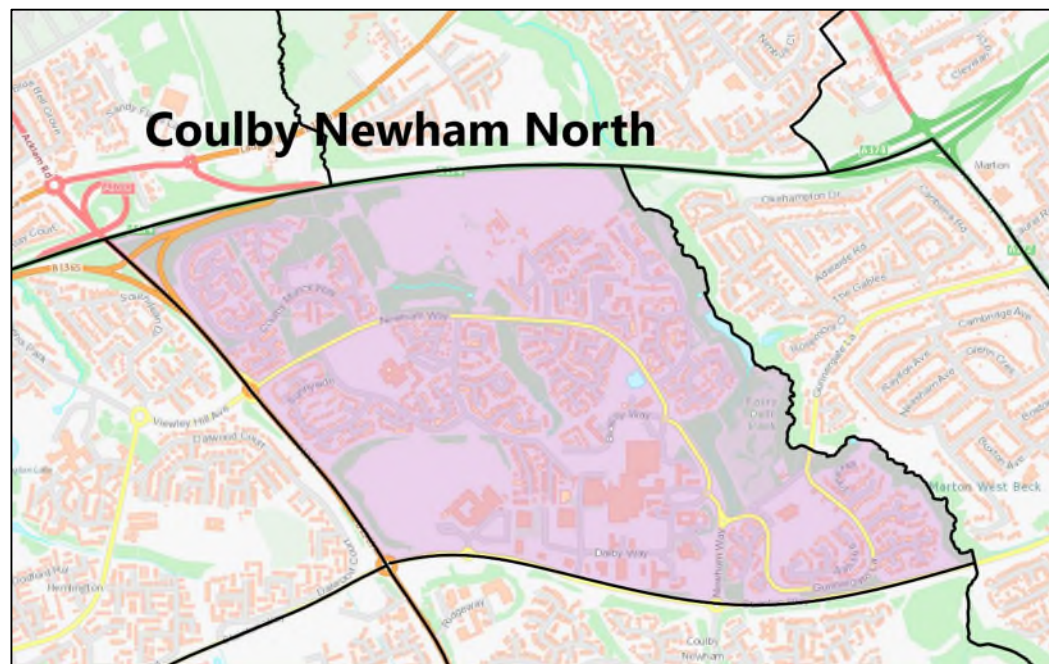
At present, the Coulby Newham ward covers the whole of the Coulby Newham area, north and south of Stainton Way. It is presently a three Member ward.

Community Characteristics

The area to the north of Stainton Way is the original Coulby Newham and was built with large proportion of social housing. It also has major facilities that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough. These include a major shopping mall, a large 'out of town' Tesco supermarket, a major sports and leisure facility, the Rainbow Centre, which includes a swimming pool, the cathedral, a police station, and a fire station. There is a major Academy, the Newham Grange Leisure Farm and health facilities that serve an area wider than Coulby Newham itself.

Proposal

The proposed boundary for Coulby Newham North would be Stainton Way acting as the Southern Boundary with the North, East and West boundary remaining in place. It is also proposed becomes a two Member ward as the proposed Coulby South Ward detailed below will also become a 2-member ward.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Coulby Newham North	2	1,517	-33%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Coulby Newham North Grange Ward would have a -33% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, as it mainly comprises the original Coulby Newham development. Whilst built as an integrated housing scheme (ie social housing and owner occupier housing side by side), many residents have since exercised their right to buy.</p> <p>As noted above, the ward will have major retail, sports and leisure facilities that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough. There is a primary school and an academy in the ward. There is a doctor's surgery, dentist and pharmacy in the ward.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links, and excellent pedestrian and cycleway access, between most parts of the ward. There are regular bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Coulby Newham South Ward

Physical Characteristics

The Coulby Newham ward presently covers the whole of the Coulby Newham area, north and south of Stainton Way, and is presently a three Member ward.

The area to the north of Stainton Way was built with large proportion of social housing and has a large number of major facilities that serve the whole of the south Middlesbrough area, such as a large supermarket, leisure facilities and health facilities.

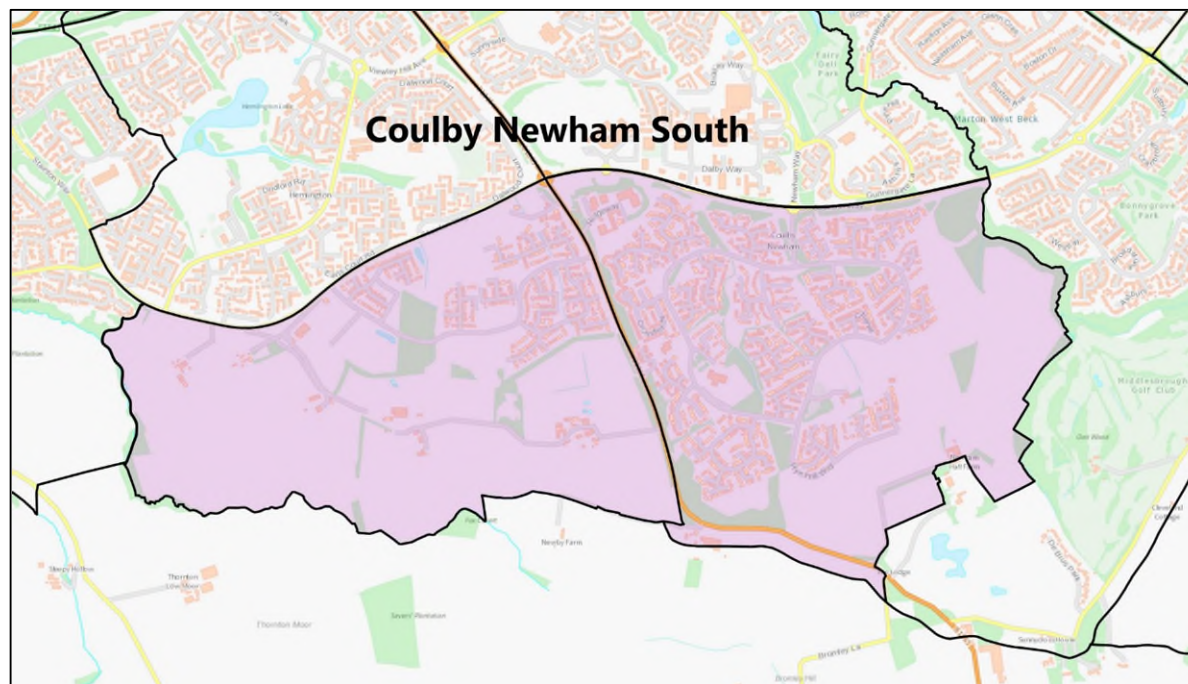
By contrast, the newer part of Coulby Newham, to the south of Stainton Way, is primarily housing, and was mainly built as owner occupier properties with some smaller areas of social housing.

As part of Middlesbrough's Local Plan (2014) large sections of southeastern the current Coulby Newham Ward have been identified for housing development. This will consist of approximately 1,000 three, four and five bedroom houses with a percentage of affordable housing included.

Community Characteristics

There are stronger community ties between residents in the south of the current Coulby Newham Ward and those in the southeastern quarter of Stainton and Thornton Ward (also referred, locally, as Newham Grange).

The proposal is to create a new two Member ward, *Coulby Newham South*. East to West this will comprise the area between the existing Coulby Newham/ Marton West boundaries and Stainton Beck. North/ South the proposed Ward will encompass the area between Stainton Way and boundaries of the existing Coulby Newham and Stainton and Thornton Wards.



The area of Stainton and Thornton Ward between Stainton Beck in the West to Coulby Newham Ward in the east is locally referred to as Newham Grange (which was a proposal during the previous boundary review of 2013). Large parts of this area have been identified for housing development with approximately 1,000 houses of a similar nature to those in Coulby Newham described above.

Transport infrastructure in that area (both current and proposed) lends itself to those living in the Newham Grange area travelling east to amenities in Coulby Newham ward rather than travelling west to Stainton and Thornton ward.

Proposal

It is proposed that land from the current Stainton and Thornton Ward namely the land east of Stainton Beck and up to the western boundary of the current Coulby Newham Ward (south of Stainton Way). It is also proposed that it becomes a two Member ward as the proposed Coulby North Ward detailed above will also become a 2 member ward.

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Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Coulby Newham South	2	2,477	9%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Coulby Newham South Ward would have a 9% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This considers the future development in the area.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity. It has local shops and a post office. There is a primary school in the ward. The major Parkway shopping centre and Rainbow sports / leisure provision that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough are close by in the proposed adjoining ward of Coulby Newham North.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links between most parts of the ward. , There are excellent pedestrian and cycleway links across the whole of the ward. There are regular bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Easterside Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current Ladgate ward comprises the older social housing of Easterside estate to the north of Ladgate Lane, and a more modern residential development to the south of Ladgate Lane (Marton Manor). It has strong boundaries with Marton Road to the east, the A174 trunk road to the south, Marton West Beck to the west and playing fields to the north.

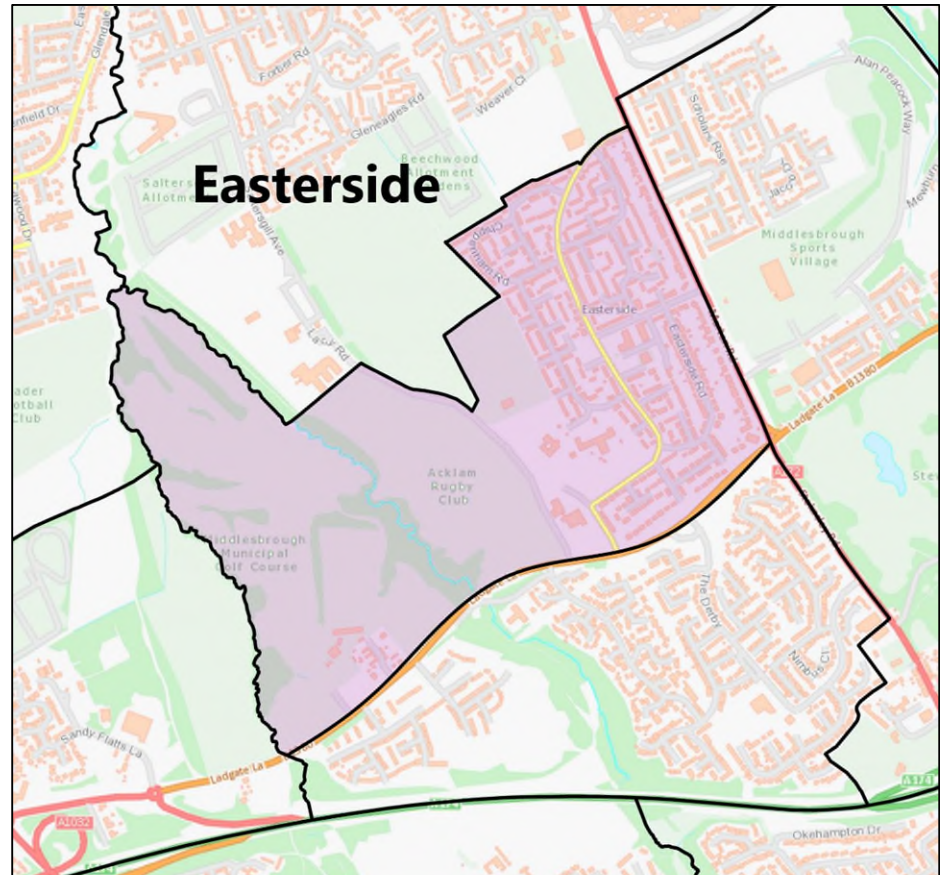
Community Characteristics

It is recognised that there are two distinct communities within the current Ladgate Ward namely those within the Easterside Estate and those in Marton Manor. While Ladgate Lane could be viewed as a barrier there are pedestrian crossing points however residents of both Easterside and Marton Manor see Ladgate Lane as a barrier. Residents in Easterside tend to use the facilities in the North of the Ward i.e., within the confines of the Easterside Estate whereas those of Marton Manor tend to access facilities in the Marton area of the town which can be several miles from their home such as the shopping parade at Marton shops and the Community Centre in Marton. Although the A174 is a main road the facilities in Marton can be accessed from Marton Manor via car or walking through the subway or across the bridge on the A174.

Proposal

The proposal is for the development to the south of Ladgate Lane (Marton Manor) to become part of the Marton West Ward and the area north of Ladgate Lane and the Easterside Estate become Easterside Ward.

If Marton Manor does become part of Marton West Ward the number of Councillors in this ward would decrease to 1, the proposed elector/Councillor ratio would be 1,980.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Easterside Ward	1	1,980	-13%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Easterside Ward will have a -13% variance less than the optimum elector/Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a currently strong sense of community identity in the area with residents of the Easterside Estate rarely utilising facilities outside of the area. Broughton Avenue has several shops and has one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides a number of community facilities and a range of community services.</p> <p>There is a library, two primary schools and a school for children with special needs.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward is good. There are bus services through the ward and into the town centre.</p>

EAST MIDDLESBROUGH - CONTEXT

Physical Characteristics

The East Middlesbrough area is currently made up of the wards of Park End and Beckfield, Brambles and Thorntree, Berwick Hills and Pallister.

The area also contains a number of housing estates, built incrementally in several phases over a 30 - 40 year period between the 1930s and the 1960s. These estates include Brambles Farm, Thorntree, Pallister Park, Park End, Overdale, Netherfields, Beckfields, Town Farm and Thorntree. There is also a very small community to the far south of the area sometimes referred to as Little Ormesby: this is a small area of private housing which has been surrounded by what was then municipal housing.

East Middlesbrough has extremely strong boundaries. To the east and south is the neighbouring authority of Redcar & Cleveland. To the west is a railway line and beck, with no road crossings other than at the northernmost and southernmost boundaries. To the north is the A1085 trunk road.

Community Characteristics

Each of these estates has a strong sense of community, a strong sense as to where each of their boundaries lie, and their own social and cultural identity. However, as the development of East Middlesbrough was phased, the distribution of facilities was not even across each of these estates, although most included neighbourhood shops, many of which still survive. This uneven pattern of development has further been distorted by a number of locally and nationally funded regeneration schemes over the years which concentrated new resources on the areas of highest social disadvantage within the area.

Proposal

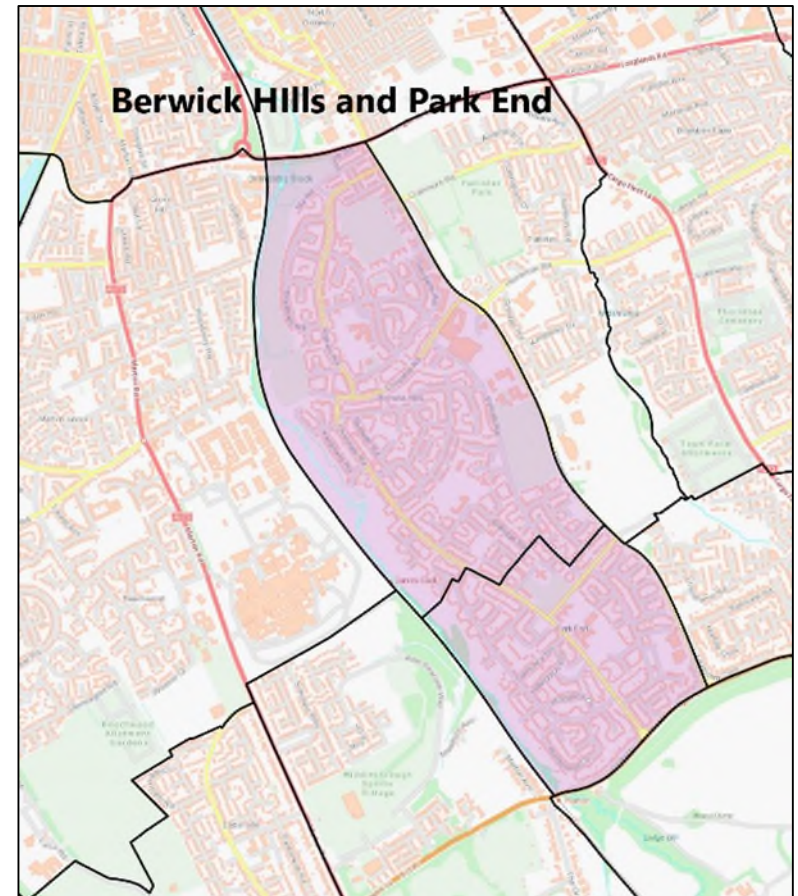
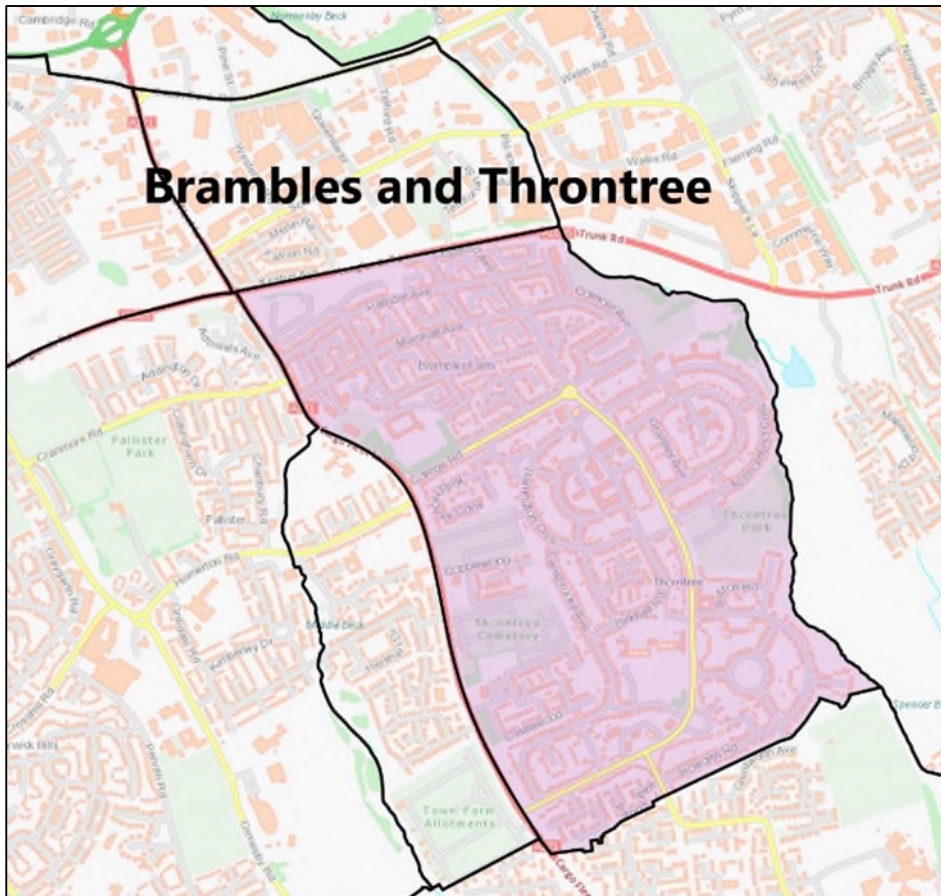
The number of electors forecast to be living in this area by 2029 is 17,214. Taking into consideration the optimum elector / Councillor ratio this equates to 8 elected Members representing the entire East Middlesbrough area.

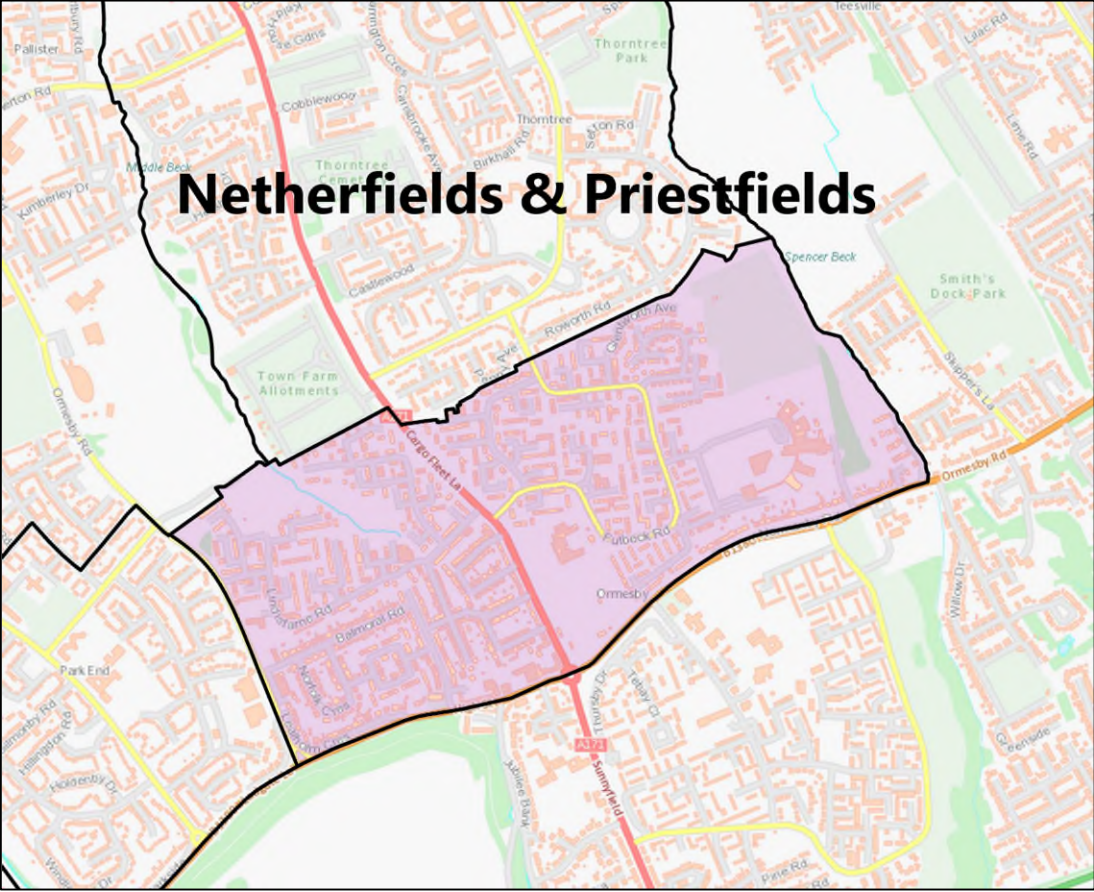
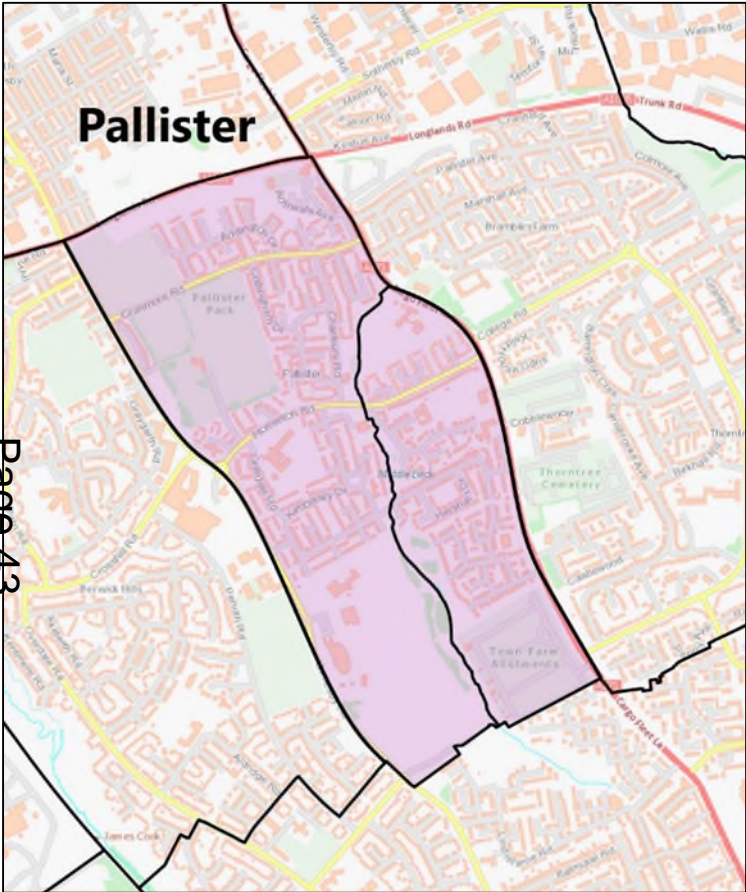
The Council has therefore taken the view that four two-Member wards will meet the requirements with regard to equality of representation and, in the view of the Council, offer the best option in terms of accessibility by the electorate to their elected representatives, and the accountability of Councillors to the electorate. The proposed wards will be:

- Brambles and Thorntree
- Berwick Hills and Park End
- Pallister
- Priestfields and Netherfields.

The approach taken by the Council has therefore been to look at the best possible fit in terms of equality of representation based on four wards each returning two Members, whilst at the same time identifying boundaries that will achieve a reasoned and reasonable clustering of the individual communities in the East Middlesbrough area as a whole.

Not only will the proposals achieve the desired outcomes for East Middlesbrough it will also allow the council to maintain 46 Councillors and fulfil electoral equality to the South of the town namely the proposed creation of the new Coulby Newham South Ward.





Brambles and Thorntree Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Brambles and Thorntree	2	4,747	5%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Brambles and Thorntree Ward will have a 5% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The changes to Brambles and Thorntree Ward will enhance the community identities already present in the ward. For example, while Brambles and Thorntree have their own community identities they are neighbouring estates to each other with no physical boundaries between them. To achieve this the Boyds Estate will move to the proposed North Ormesby and Boyds Ward (as describe above) and the area of Town Farm (to the west of the Ward will become part of the proposed Pallister Ward (discussed below). Both areas have strong community identities in their own right, but have a better community fit to other areas of east Middlesbrough. Both areas have access to local shopping facilities, primary schools, and community centres.</p> <p>There is an active Community Council in this ward, but it is not anticipated the proposal will affect its activities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally good vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services running through the ward.</p>

Berwick Hills & Park End Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Berwick Hills & Park End Ward	2	6,095	34%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Berwick Hills & Park End Ward will have a 34% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, bringing together both estates of Berwick Hills and Park End.</p> <p>Within the ward are two primary schools and a City Academy, several playing fields and places of worship. There are small shops in the ward, and a major supermarket and shopping area in the eastern central area of the ward. There is also a library and a major sports and activities facility including a swimming pool, the Neptune Centre.</p> <p>There are medical and dental facilities in the ward, and one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides several community facilities and a range of community services, is sited at the Berwick Hills centre.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services running through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Netherfields and Priestfields Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Netherfields & Priestfields Ward	2	3,255	-28%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Netherfields & Priestfields Ward will have a 28% variance below than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, bringing together the Netherfields and Priestfields housing estates into one ward. Both of these areas have strong and established communities identities with each have a physical indicator of their own estate (e.g. Welcome To signs...)</p> <p>There are small local shops in both estates including a post office, and a larger parade of shops on Ormesby Road. There is a primary school and a health centre in the ward. There are no major community facilities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there is a bus services running through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Pallister Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Pallister Ward	2	3,117	-31%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The Pallister Ward will have a -31% variance than the average optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The Pallister area of the town has a strong community identity that has never identified with Berwick Hills or Brambles Farm (to the West and East respectively). The ward has its own Primary School and has a community centre located in Pallister Park itself. This acts as a hub to the wider are. The area also has the East Middlesbrough Events Centre, which holds well attended community events that act as a community focal point.</p> <p>While it does not have its own shopping facilities it well served by the supermarket close by. There are medical and dental facilities, and one of the Council’s Community Hubs, which provides several community facilities and a wide range of community services, situated on the opposite side of Ormesby Road</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There are good transport and pedestrian links throughout the ward, and bus services through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Marion West Ward

Physical Characteristics

Marion West ward lies mainly to the west of Marion Road, with Brass castle Lane at the southern boundary, Marion West Beck on the western boundary and the A174 Parkway to the north.

The current ward of Marion West has a projected 3% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2029.

Community Characteristics

Marion – the area, as opposed to the electoral ward(s) – is an area of Middlesbrough with a strong sense of community and community identity. It is one of the more affluent areas of Middlesbrough and comprises almost exclusively owner-occupied housing.

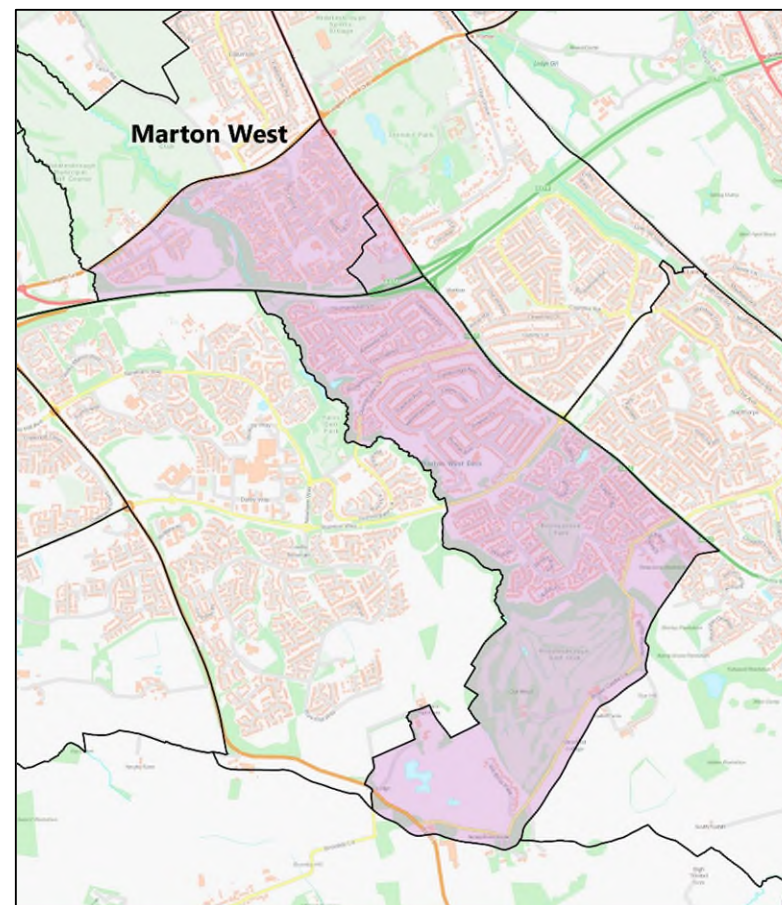
Proposal

The proposal is to combine the southern part of the current Ladgate Ward ie, South of Ladgate Lane.

It would provide a greater strength of community identity, brought together by the Stokesley Road which runs through the middle of the ward, and which has many of the shops and other facilities common to both parts of the new ward. Residents who reside in the southern part of the current Ladgate ward identify as living in Marion, they also use facilities in the Marion West Ward such as the shopping parade on Stokesley Road, community centers and public houses.

It is also proposed that the row of cottages on Marion Road close to St Cuthberts Church and the apartments at The Wickets move to Marion West Ward from Marion East as they are situated to the West of Marion Road.

The proposed Marion West Ward will be a three Member ward and will have a Councillor / elector ratio 0% variance against the optimum by 2029.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Marton West	3	6,811	0%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Marton West Ward will have a 0% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity.</p> <p>There is a large shopping parade in the centre of the ward, the Marton Road shops, which has a good variety of local shops and other facilities. There is a library and a post office in the same location, and the ward has a pharmacy. In addition, there are also some local shops in Woodrow Avenue. The ward has two schools, places of worship and an active community centre with a strong local management committee. In addition to the Community Council there is a Friends of Stewart park, which is in the ward, and a Friends of Marton Library, which is run with the involvement of local volunteers.</p> <p>There is an active Community Council in this ward, but it is not anticipated the proposal will affect its activities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is good vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services along Marton Road and into the town centre.</p>

Stainton & Thornton Ward

Physical Characteristics

Stainton and Thornton villages are unique in Middlesbrough, being almost rural villages, with several working farms in an otherwise densely populated urban town. There has been some more recent housing development in the ward.

Comprising large areas of rural space to the west the ward also includes parts of the A19.

Community Characteristics

Stainton and Thornton villages are unique in Middlesbrough as being almost rural villages on the edge of the town albeit with some more recent housing development.

There is a very strong sense of community identity and community pride. There is a primary school, an active village hall, and Stainton & Thornton Parish Council is one of two Parish Councils within the Middlesbrough area. It also has an active Community Council.

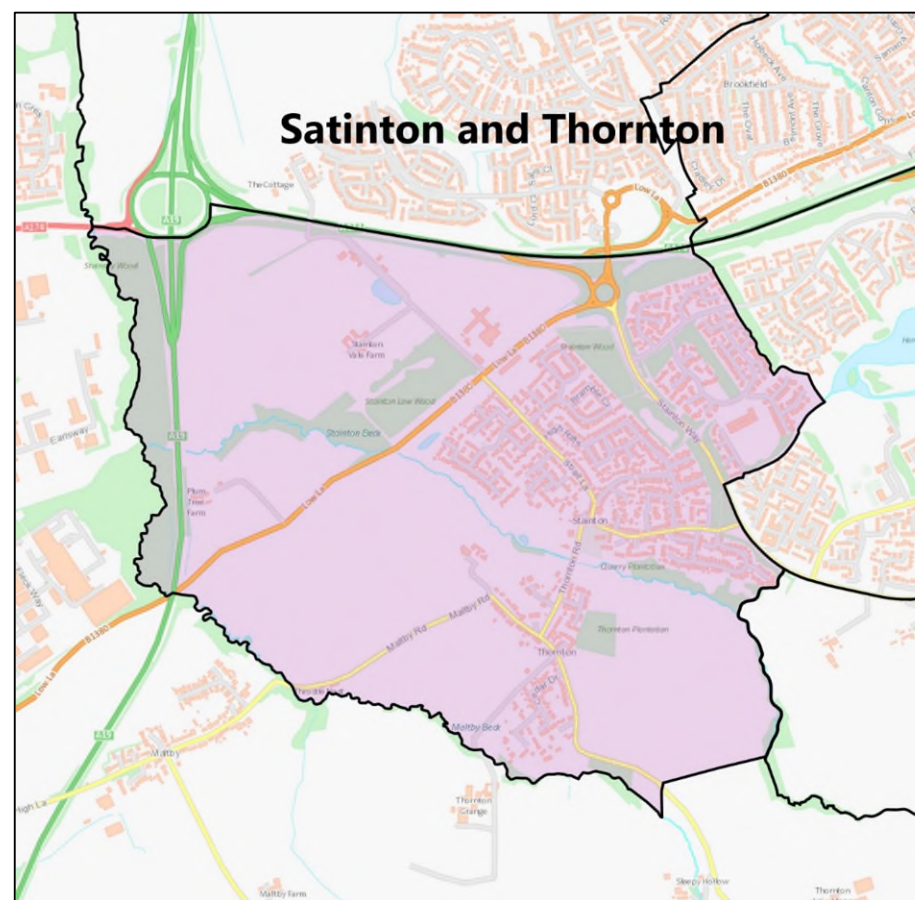
Stainton no longer has a village shop and post office but it has a village pub, a hotel, a health club, a barber, hairdressers and beauty bar and a parish church as well as other small businesses.

The new proposed housing developments within the area known as Hemlington Grange (land to the east of Stainton Beck) does not currently have any shops or a community centre. There is no direct path between Hemlington Grange and Stainton and so there are difficulties in sharing events that take place in Stainton in The Memorial Village Hall.

The villages are well served with a road network including Stainton Way, A174 and the A19. There is a good bus service that serves both Stainton and the Hemlington part of the ward.

Proposal

The only change proposed to this ward will be land to the east of Stainton Beck and up to the Western boundary of the current Coulby Newham ward will be adopted by the proposed Coulby South ward as detailed below. This change will have minimal effect on current electorate ratio's however an extensive programme of housing is programmed for this area up to and beyond 2029.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward	1	2,373	5%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward would have a 5% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a very strong sense of community identity and community pride. There is a primary school, an active village hall, and Stainton & Thornton Parish Council is one of two Parish Councils within the Middlesbrough area. It has also has an active Community Council.</p> <p>Stainton no longer has a village shop and post office, but it has a village pub, a hotel, a health club, hairdressers and nail bar and a parish church.</p> <p>The new proposed housing developments within the area known as Hemlington Grange (land to the east of Stainton Beck) does not currently have any shops or a community centre. There is no direct path between Hemlington Grange and Stainton and so there are difficulties in sharing events that take place in Stainton in The Memorial Village Hall.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links, and easy pedestrian access, between all the residential parts of the proposed ward. There are bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

North Ormesby & Boyds Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current ward of North Ormesby has a variance of -15% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

The current ward has several resources and facilities within its boundaries which are currently four arterial roads: the A66 to the north, Trunk Road to the south, Cargo Fleet Lane (A171) to the east and Stokesley Road (A172) to the west.

The east of Cargo Fleet Lane is largely industrial units. The proposed ward would also contain the Boyds Estate, currently within the boundary of Brambles and Thorntree ward. Despite its small size, the Boyds estate has an equally strong community identity as North Ormesby. However, the Boyds Estate does not identify with Brambles and Thorntree Ward partially due to the Trunk Road separating it from the remaining population of the ward.

Community Characteristics

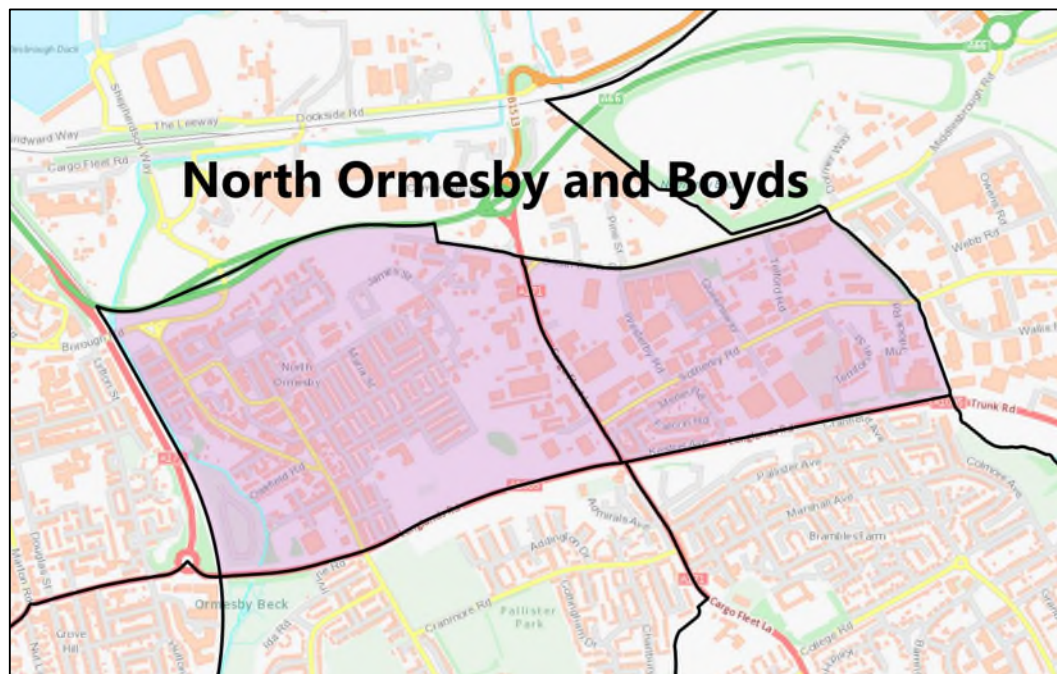
North Ormesby has a defined community identity and has many characteristics of a small township with a high street, a shopping area, and several commercial and public buildings. It is one of Middlesbrough's older, most readily identifiable communities.

Since the last Ward Boundary Review a new Lidl supermarket has been built on the border of the current North Ormesby Ward and the Boyd Estate which residents from both areas access.

Proposal

The proposal would be to extend the boundaries of the current North Ormesby Ward to the east using Trunk Road (A1085) as the southern boundary and the existing boundaries of Brambles and Thorntree Ward to the north and east. North Ormesby Ward would then encompass the industrial estate adjacent to Cargo Fleet Lane and the Boyds Estate. It is also proposed that the expanded North Ormesby Ward would remain a single member ward as there is only a small increase in electors.

It is accepted the expansion of the current North Ormesby Ward offers the opportunity for other changes in east Middlesbrough which in turn allows for changes in the south of the town. However, given the geography of the area, the self-contained nature of North Ormesby, and the lack of community connection of the Boyds Estate to Brambles and Thorntree Ward it is considered that this solution is the 'best fit' that can be achieved.



Given the access points from all boundaries and the strong community identities of both North Ormesby and the Boyds Estate the new ward would provide effective and convenient local government.

The proposed North Ormesby & Boyds Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio of 4% less than the optimum Councillor ratio by 2029.

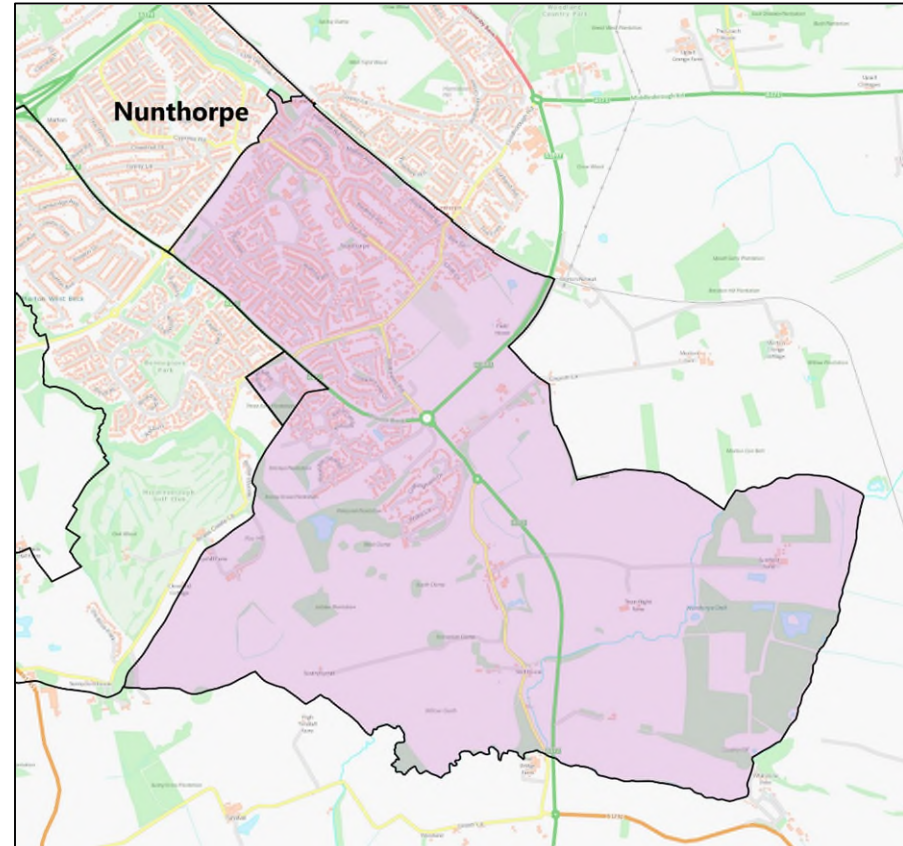
Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
North Ormesby & Boyds Ward		2,180	-4%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new North Ormesby & Boyds Ward will have a -4% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for other boundary changes in east Middlesbrough that will better reflect those communities and enable further changes to the south of the town.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity.</p> <p>North Ormesby has all the characteristics of a small self-contained township with a high street, a market, several shops, public buildings and services. There are two primary schools and various places of worship of different denominations, including the prominent Hindu temple. There is a major health centre. The Community Hub incorporates the library and the youth and community centre and provides a range of community resources and services. The area has an active residents' association.</p> <p>The Boyd Estate is a much smaller area with some xxx electors. While there are physical boundaries to the east and south of the estate, these are both main roads offering improved access to the facilities of North Ormesby arguably greater than its current ward of Brambles and Thorntree.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Both the North Ormesby part of the ward and the Boyds Estate part of the ward have good vehicle access to other parts of the ward. The Council acknowledges that access between the North Ormesby area of the ward and the Boyd Estate is not ideal..</p>

Nunthorpe Ward

There is an active Parish Council (just one of two in Middlesbrough), which has led on the development of the Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Plan. The Governance Review of 2022 confirmed community support for the Parish Council, with continuing local interest evidenced by the contested Parish elections of May 2023. A new community hub at the centre of Nunthorpe is emerging on Stokesley Road, with a Medical Centre already opened, a Community Centre underway, and a large restaurant nearby.

To the north of this hub, the ward is fairly well developed in terms of housing. To the west, the new development of Grey Towers Village is almost complete. The southern part of the ward is mainly farmland, but also includes the original village of Nunthorpe. To the east is Nunthorpe Grange, zoned in the 2014 Local Plan for the construction of 250 dwellings, some of which are planned to be built by 2029. The draft 2024 Local Plan proposes no further construction of houses in Nunthorpe.

The proposal is for Nunthorpe to remain as at present, with one change. The residents of Borrowby Rise and Plantation View at the northern part of Grey Towers Village feel strongly that they are part of Nunthorpe, because they are an integral part of Grey Towers Village. Their only access is through Grey Towers Village, directly via Dixon's Bank and Ellerbeck (as distinct from the Marton West developments accessible via Brass Castle Lane). Their address is "Nunthorpe", and until this review most of the residents assumed that they are part of Nunthorpe Ward. A recent survey has evidenced the overwhelming desire of the residents to be confirmed as belonging to the Nunthorpe community. The proposed Nunthorpe Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 8% more than the optimum by 2029, which is felt to be exceptionally justified by the strength of community support for the proposal.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Nunthorpe Ward	2	4,887	8%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u> The new Nunthorpe will have a 8% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u> The ward has a strong community identity. It has an active Parish Council and there is a residents group active in the Grey Towers area. There is an active Community Council in the area.</p> <p>There are three primary schools in the ward, and shops next to Nunthorpe railway station, although they are, in fact, just over the border in Redcar & Cleveland. There is also a newly opened doctors surgery.</p> <p>There is an active Community Council in this ward, but it is not anticipated the proposal will affect its activities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u> The ward has good road and pedestrian links between all parts of the ward. There is a railway station on the Middlesbrough to Whitby line. There is also a bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Ward Name Changes

To alleviate confusion it has been proposed to change some names of wards in the Town to provide clarity to residents on which elected member they should be contacting for advice and support.

The following changes have been proposed. Where proposals effect the same ward Council are asked to decide which proposal they prefer.

- Acklam Ward change to Acklam East & Tollesby Ward
- Ayresome Ward change to Acklam West & Whinney Banks or Whinney Banks & West Lane
- Linthorpe Ward to Linthorpe East
- Park Ward to Linthorpe West
- Ayresome to Acklam North

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Central & North Ormesby Ward Proposal - A proposal made at a Member Workshop. While this was considered to be valid and well thought out based on geographic considerations OSB deemed there was insufficient evidence to support the proposal from a community perspective. Statistically, the proposal also created a significant variance from the optimum elector/ Councillor ratio.

As such OSB did not include this proposal for submission to the Boundary Commission.

Central & North Ormesby Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current ward of North Ormesby has a variance of -15% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

The current ward has several resources and facilities within its boundaries which are currently four arterial roads: the A66 to the north, Trunk Road to the south, Cargo Fleet Lane (A171) to the east and Stokesley Road (A172) to the west.

One of the main arterial routes into Middlesbrough town centre runs through the current North Ormesby ward, which crosses through into Central ward. Many of the towns bus routes pass through North Ormesby to gain access to the centre. North Ormesby borders with the Central Ward. North Ormesby is connected to Central Ward via the North Ormesby flyover which cars and pedestrians can both use to access the town centre.

Community Characteristics

North Ormesby has a defined community identity and has many characteristics of a small township with a high street, a shopping area, and several commercial and public buildings. It is one of Middlesbrough's older, most readily identifiable communities.

Proposal

The proposal is to combine the current Central Ward with North Ormesby.

The proposed Central & North Ormesby Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio of 43% greater than the optimum Councillor ratio by 2029.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Central & North Ormesby Ward	3	9741	+43%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Central & North Ormesby Ward will have a +43% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for other boundary changes in east Middlesbrough that will better reflect those communities and enable further changes to the south of the town.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity. North Ormesby has all the characteristics of a small self-contained township with a high street, a market, several shops, public buildings and services. There are two primary schools and various places of worship of different denominations, including the prominent Hindu temple. There is a major health centre. The Community Hub incorporates the library and the youth and community centre and provides a range of community resources and services. The area has an active residents' association and Community Council.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has excellent road links, and easy pedestrian access, between all the residential parts of the ward. There are bus services running through North Ormesby to access Middlesbrough Town Centre.</p>