

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**Personal Details:****Name:****E-mail:****Postcode:****Organisation Name:****Comment text:**

I am disappointed that you do not facilitate multiple file uploads from consultees and advise you to enable this for future consultations. I will have to therefore try and submit indicative ward maps as additional submissions. I have uploaded a document which sets out my dissatisfaction with your draft proposals and it contains my own proposals for future warding arrangements so please examine and consider carefully what I suggest. Part of the attached document content is also shown below: I do not support the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft proposals for Stockton on Tees and call for them to be significantly revised, with more emphasis being placed on achieving good Electoral Quality than is the case for the current draft proposals. I have provided revised proposals in this submission. (G Robertson proposal 2) and reference should also be made to Tables 1,2 & 3 plus appendix one. I have also generated indicative maps as part of my proposals but as I have already explained, you did not have the foresight to enable multiple uploads, therefore I will send these separately. In my view the Commission have not delivered enough "good electoral equality, i.e. each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters." That being the case, one could ask, why go through the process at all?. Is the wide ranging change of any benefit when the improvement in Electoral quality you have proposed is marginal to moderate? I also feel that the Commission do not have the necessary background knowledge or experience to objectively assess how submissions from others can :-

- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links or
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government."

Furthermore, on what basis do the commissions feel they have the skills and knowledge to assess whether or not any proposals "Reflect community interests and identities"? How would they acquire the knowledge to do that? And how can they determine if somebody's proposals will "Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government"? I contend that you do not have the skills or knowledge to make such assessments and as such these are token elements that will be subject to opinions and political advantage seeking rather than being determined by criteria that you can be meaningfully evaluate. You say "22. When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for Stockton-on-Tees will have good electoral equality by 2026" I do not regard a potential situation where one ward could be -10% of the average for the authority and an adjacent ward could be +10% as amounting to good electoral quality. I therefore regard the commission's view of electoral quality as being substandard. There are inconsistencies in the priority of application of natural road boundaries and river boundaries as drivers for ward boundaries. These seem to be regarded as of more importance in some wards than good electoral quality. I also draw your attention to the fact that the quoted "Wolviston Beck Lane" is actually Wolviston Back Lane. This lack of attention to detail raises questions about the attention to detail and questions the accuracy of the current draft proposals. My own revised proposals in the attached word document involve far less chaotic changes than those proposed in your draft and achieve a better electoral quality too. My proposals require some reallocation of polling districts and adjustments to polling district boundaries. Boundary adjustments are made by transferring properties within designated existing super output areas. Please ensure subsequent submissions with indicative maps are linked to this one,

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1626394034_Response+to+the+Local+Government+Boundary+Commission+for+England.docx\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1626394034_Response+to+the+Local+Government+Boundary+Commission+for+England.docx)

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft proposals for Stockton on Tees

I do not support the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft proposals for Stockton on Tees and call for them to be significantly revised, with more emphasis being placed on achieving good Electoral Quality than is the case for the current proposals. I have provided revised proposals in this submission. (G Robertson proposal 2) and reference should also be made to Tables 1,2 & 3 plus appendix one.

In my view the Commission have not delivered enough “good electoral equality, i.e. each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.” That being the case, one could ask, why go through the process at all. Is the wide ranging change of any benefit when the improvement in Electoral quality is marginal to moderate? I also feel that the Commission do not have the necessary background knowledge or experience to objectively assess how submissions from others can :-

- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links or
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Furthermore, on what basis do the commissions feel they have the skills and knowledge to assess whether or not any proposals "Reflect community interests and identities"? How would they acquire the knowledge to do that? And how can they determine if somebody's proposals will "Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government"?

I submit that they do not have the skills or knowledge to make such assessments and as such these are token elements that will be subject to opinions and political advantage seeking rather than being determined by criteria that can be meaningfully evaluated.

The Commission say “22. When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having ‘good electoral equality’. All but one of our proposed wards for Stockton-on-Tees will have good electoral equality by 2026”

I do not regard a potential situation where one ward could be -10% of the average for the authority and an adjacent ward could be +10% as amounting to good electoral quality.

I therefore regard the commission’s view of electoral quality as being substandard. There are inconsistencies in the priority of application of natural road boundaries and river boundaries as drivers for ward boundaries. These seem to be regarded as of more importance in some wards than good electoral quality.

I also note that the quoted “Wolviston Beck Lane” is actually Wolviston Back Lane. This lack of attention to detail raises questions about the attention to detail and questions the accuracy of the current draft proposals.

My own revised proposals are provided overleaf. They involve far less chaotic changes than those proposed in the commission draft and achieve a better electoral quality too. My proposals require some reallocation of polling districts and adjustments to polling district boundaries. Boundary adjustments are made by transferring properties within designated existing super output areas.

NB The number of Electors in the super output areas have been derived estimated age distribution data for the SAO’s.

Ward name proposed	Total estimated Ward Electorate 2026	No of Cllrs in ward	Variance from optimum ratio	Current Poll district area code	Suggested 2026 Poll district area code	Electorate 2026 estimated	2026 Electorate prior to any adjustment if made	Description of Ward situation & any suggested changes
Billingham Central	5338	2	1.1%	BW1	BC1	1675		Move BC1 to Billingham South, gain BW1 from Billingham West
				BC2	BC2	1164		
				BC3	BC3	1467		
				BC4	BC4	1032		
Billingham East	5335	2	1.1%	BE1	BE1	2141		Gain BS2 from Billingham South
				BE2	BE2	1079		
				BE3	BE3	1618		
				BE4	BE4	86		
				BS2	BE5	411		
Billingham North & Wolviston (Currently Billingham North)	7414	3	-6.4%	BN1	BNW1	2281		Gain NP3 from current Northern Parishes Ward
				BN2	BNW2	1329		
				BN3	BNW3	1512		
				BN4	BNW4	1616		
				NP3	BNW5	676		
Billingham South	5637	2	6.8%	BC1	BS1	1496		Move BS2 to Billingham East, gain BC1 from Billingham Central
				BS1	BS2	1338		
				BS3	BS3	1384		
				BS4	BS4	1419		
Billingham West	2694	1	2.1%	BW2	BW1	2694		Move current BW1 to Billingham Central & condense to 1 Councillor ward
Wynyard & Western Parishes (Currently Northern Parishes & Western Parishes)	5222	2	-1.1%	NP1	WWP1	3176		Extend current NP2 Polling district as detailed in appendix 1. Move NP3 to current Billingham North Ward, gain WP1, WP2 & WP3 from current Western Parishes. Transfer NP4 to relocated Norton North Ward
				NP2	WWP2	136		
				WP1	WWP3	659		
				WP2	WWP4	974		
				WP3	WWP5	277		
Norton North (Currently mostly	5142	2	-2.6%	NN1	NN1	1348		Move NW2 to current Norton North Ward. Gain NN1 from current Norton North Ward, and NP4 from current Northern Parishes Ward.
				NW1	NN2	1656		

Norton West)				NW3	NN3	1451		
				NP4	NN4	687		
Norton Central (Currently mostly Norton North)	5300	2	0.4%	NW2	NC1	1871		Move NN1 to current Norton West Ward. Gain NW2 from Current Norton West Ward.
				NN2	NC2	920		
				NN3	NC3	1012		
				NN4	NC4	1497		
Norton South	4998	2	-5.3%	NS1	NS1	1234		No change from current sub ward arrangements
				NS2	NS2	1377		
				NS3	NS3	1447		
				NS4	NS4	940		
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	5215	2	-1.2%	BET1	BET1	1805		No change from current sub ward arrangements
				BET2	BET2	779		
				BET3	BET3	2631		
Village	5394	2	2.2%	VL1	VL1	1151		Move 253 Electors in SOA E00061981 from VL2 to MV5. Gain 463 Electors in VL3 by transfer of SOA's E00165751 & E00061934 currently in SH2
				VL2	VL2	1368	1621	
				VL3	VL3	1860	1393	
				VL4	VL4	1015		
Stainsby Hill	5554	2	5.2%	SH1	SH1	1147		Move 463 Electors to VL3 transfer of SOA's E00165751 & E00061934 currently in SH2 Gain 1404 Electors by transfer & renaming of current IBE5 & IBE6 wards
				SH2	SH2	1119	1582	
				SH3	SH3	1884		
				IBE6	SH4	313		
				IBE5	SH5	1091		
Mandale & Victoria	7503	3	-5.2%	MV1	MV1	607		Add 253 electors to MV5 by adding SOA E00061981 from VL2
				MV2	MV2	1717		
				MV3	MV3	1498		
				MV4	MV4	1563		
				MV5	MV5	2118	1865	
Newtown	5114	2	-3.1%	NT1	NT1	1566		See Parkfield & Oxbridge
				NT2	NT2	1869	1578	
				NT3	NT3	512		
				NT4	NT4	1167		

Stockton Town Centre	5139	2	-2.6%	STC1	STC1	693		See Parkfield & Oxbridge
				STC2	STC2	797		
				STC3	STC3	1250		
				STC4	STC4	1638	1295	
				STC5	STC5	761		
Parkfield & Oxbridge	5416	2	2.6%	PO1	PO1	1899		Move: 343 Electors in PO1 SOA E00061844 to STC4 - 197 Electors in PO3 SOA E00061626 to GF4 - 291 Electors in PO3 SOA's E00061617 & E00061618 to NT2
				PO2	PO2	2113		
				PO3	PO3	1404		
Roseworth	5136	2	-2.7%	RW1	RW1	1501	1270	Gain 231 electors from SOA E00061758 in HD2
				RW2	RW2	1551		
				RW3	RW3	2084		
Hardwick & Salters Lane	5369	2	1.7%	HD1	HD1	2133		Move SOA E00061758 to RW1
				HD2	HD2	620	857	
				HD3	HD3	2616		
Fairfield	5243	2	-0.7%	FF1	FF1	3404	2736	Gain SOA E00061656, E00061657 & E00061658 from Hartburn
				FF2	FF2	1839		
Hartburn	5155	2	-2.3%	HB1	HB1	2624		Gain EG8 from current Eaglescliffe Ward. Move SOA E00061656, E00061657 & E00061658 to FF1
				HB2	HB2	2251	2919	
				WP5	HB3	276		
				EG8	HB4	4		
Grangefield	5198	2	-1.5%	GF1	GF1	1439		See Parkfield & Oxbridge
				GF2	GF2	1014		
				GF3	GF3	1635		
				GF4	GF4	1110	913	
Ingleby Barwick East	8353	3	5.5%	IBE1	IBE1	2495		Gain IBW3 from current Ingleby Barwick East ward. Move IBE5 & IBE6 to current Stainsby Hill Ward
				IBE2	IBE2	1734		
				IBE3	IBE3	1070		
				IBE4	IBE4	1648		
				IBW3	IBE5	1406		
Ingleby Barwick West	8128	3	2.7%	IBW1	IBW1	1761		Move IBW3 to current Ingleby Barwick East ward
				IBW2	IBW2	1631		

				IBW5	IBW3	1913		
				IBW4	IBW4	2823		
Eaglescliffe	7967	3	0.6%	EG1	EG1	2083		Move EG7 to proposed Yarm North Ward
				EG2	EG2	1741		
				EG3	EG3	2791		
				EG4	EG4	1352		
Yarm North	5566	2	5.5%	YM1	YN1	2155		Split current Yarm Ward - New Yarm North formed from YM1, YM3 & YM4 sub polling districts. -Yarm South Wards. Add current EG5, EG6 & EG7 sub polling districts. Transfer 557 electors from YM3 to YM5 by moving SOA's E00062029 & E00062035
				EG7	YN2	962		
				YM3	YN3	1073	1630	
				YM4	YN4	564		
				EG5	YN5	109		
				EG6	YN6	63		
				WP4	YN7	640		
Yarm South	5715	2	8.3%	YM5	YS1	1581	1024	Split current Yarm Ward - New Yarm South formed from YM2, YM5, YM6 & YM7 sub polling districts.
				YM6	YS2	2178		
				YM7	YS3	25		
				YM2	YS4	1931		

Further information:

Table 1:
Hyper Links to details of Super Output areas to be moved:

- [155. E00061617](#)
- [156. E00061618](#)
- [164. E00061626](#)
- [192. E00061656](#)
- [193. E00061657](#)
- [194. E00061658](#)
- [287. E00061758](#)
- [367. E00061844](#)
- [414. E00061891](#)
- [457. E00061934](#)
- [542. E00062029](#)
- [548. E00062035](#)
- [560. E00165751](#)

Table 2
Comparison of draft proposals with G Robertson submission 2

Electoral Quality Variance range comparison

LGBC draft proposals	G Robertson proposal 2
-11% to 8% Standard deviation 6.29%	-6.4% to 8.3% Standard deviation 3.82%

Table 3: New Ward comparisons: LGBC draft proposals & G Robertson proposal 2

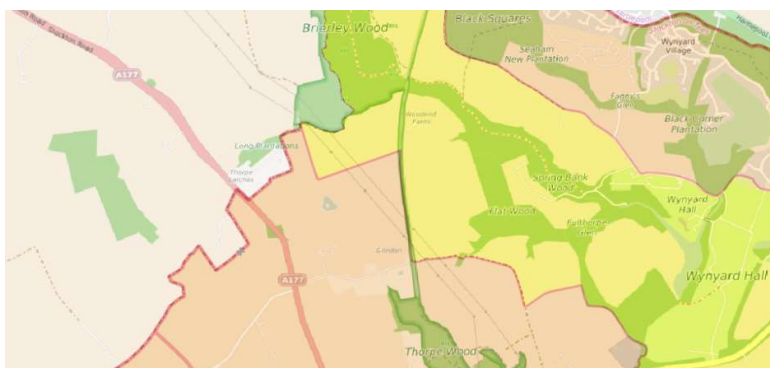
	Ward name LGBC draft	Number of councillors	Variance from average %	Ward name G Robertson proposal 2	Number of councillors	Variance from average %
1	Billingham Central	2	4%	Billingham Central	2	1.1%
2	Billingham East	2	0%	Billingham East	2	1.1%
3	Billingham North	2	-1%	Billingham North & Wolviston	3	-6.4%
4	Billingham South	2	8%	Billingham South	2	6.8%
5	Billingham West & Wolviston	2	-10%	Billingham West	1	2.1%
6	Eaglescliffe East	2	-9%	<i>See Eaglescliffe below</i>		
7	Eaglescliffe West	2	6%	<i>See Eaglescliffe below</i>		
8	Fairfield South	2	-5%	<i>See full ward listed below</i>		
9	Fairfield North & Elm Tree	2	-1%	<i>See separate wards listed below</i>		
10	Hardwick & Bishopsgarth	3	-6%	<i>See separate wards listed below</i>		
11	Hartburn	3	-3%	Hartburn	2	-2.3%
12	Ingleby Barwick North	3	3%	Ingleby Barwick East	3	5.5%
13	Ingleby Barwick South	3	5%	Ingleby Barwick West	3	2.7%
14	Mandale & Victoria	2	8%	Mandale & Victoria	3	-5.2%
15	Newtown	2	1%	Newtown	2	-3.1%
16	Northern Parishes	2	7%	Wynyard & Western Parishes	2	-1.1%
17	Norton Central	2	-10%	Norton Central	2	0.4%
18	Norton North	2	-6%	Norton North	2	-2.6%
19	Norton South	2	-11%	Norton South	2	-5.3%
20	Parkfield & Oxbridge	2	2%	Parkfield & Oxbridge	2	2.6%
21	Roseworth	2	8%	Roseworth	2	-2.7%
22	Southern Parishes	1	-1%	<i>See Yarm North & Yarm South</i>		
23	Stainsby Hill	2	7%	Stainsby Hill	2	5.2%
24	Stockton Town Centre	2	-8%	Stockton Town Centre	2	-2.6%
25	Village	2	3%	Village	2	2.2%
26	Yarm	3	5%	<i>See Yarm North & Yarm South</i>	See more overleaf	
				Grangefield	2	-1.50%
				Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	2	-1.2%

Fairfield	2	-0.7%
Hardwick	2	1.7%
Eaglescliffe	3	0.6%
Yarm North	2	5.5%
Yarm South	2	8.3%

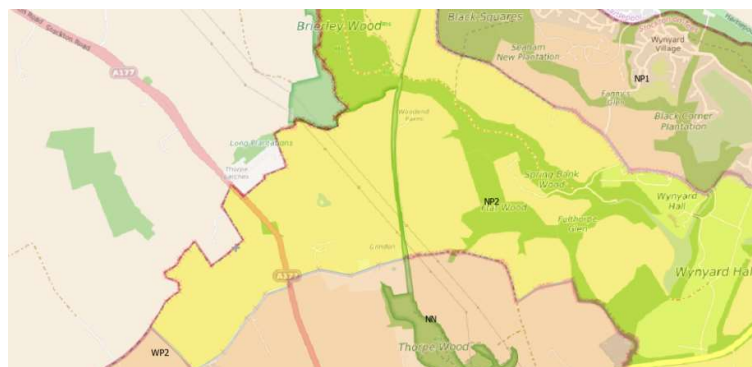
Appendix 1

Current NP2 polling district to be extended to take in the extreme North West portion of current NP4 polling district as shown below.in yellow.
(Background mapping courtesy of www.openstreetmap.org)

Current NP2



Extended NP2



The land appended to NP2 to be comprised of:

That to the North of the road linking the A177 to Thorpe Leazes Cottages commencing at Easting 439231 & Northing 525273 and terminating Easting 438525 & Northing 524623 up to the Stockton Borough Council boundary and:

That to the North of the road linking the A177 to Railway Cottages East of Grindon commencing at Easting 439224 & Northing 525316 and terminating Easting 440081 & Northing 525485 up to the Stockton Borough Council boundary.

