

New electoral arrangements for Middlesbrough Council Draft Recommendations

July 2024

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Why Middlesbrough?

7 We are conducting a review of Middlesbrough Borough Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Middlesbrough are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Middlesbrough

9 Middlesbrough should be represented by 46 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Middlesbrough should have 20 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 16 wards should change; four will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 June 2024 to 12 August 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 12 August 2024 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 25 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Middlesbrough. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
12 December 2023	Number of councillors decided
19 December 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
11 March 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 June 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 August 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 October 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2023	2029
Electorate of Middlesbrough	99,075	104,497
Number of councillors	46	46
Average number of electors per councillor	2,154	2,272

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 of our proposed wards for Middlesbrough are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2029.

25 In March 2024 we noted a number of small discrepancies between the electoral forecasts and the housing development data provided by the Council. We discussed this with Council officers and, in early April 2024, agreed upon a small revision to the forecast with an additional 242 electors. Overall this raised the projected forecast

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

increase in the electorate from 5.2% to 5.5%. We considered the effect on the warding schemes submitted during the initial consultation to be negligible.

26 We are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Middlesbrough Borough Council currently has 46 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 46 councillors: for example, 46 one-councillor wards, 23 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Two of these cited the imagined cost to the Council of maintaining the existing number of councillors, which does not correlate with our three statutory criteria, while the third proposed to reduce the number of councillors by half. However, this proposal was not supported by evidence to justify the change. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 46-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 63 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from the Council and Middlesbrough Labour Group ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The two borough-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Middlesbrough. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. However, the Council's proposals included nine wards with electoral variances greater than 10% from the borough average – three of which were greater than 30% – while the Labour proposals, which sought to correct this, still included five wards with variances greater than 10%.

32 Our draft recommendations are based on the Labour proposals, taking into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 We visited the Middlesbrough area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Middlesbrough helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for six three-councillor wards and 14 two-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–22 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Middlesbrough. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

East Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Berwick Hills & Pallister	2	-10%
North Ormesby & Brambles	2	-4%
Park End & Beckfield	3	-2%
Thorntree & Town Farm	2	-5%

North Ormesby & Brambles and Thorntree & Town Farm

38 We received four submissions with proposals for this area of the borough. Two of these were the Council and Labour schemes, while the others were from residents. The Council proposed a truncated version of the existing Brambles & Thorntree ward, with the northern boundary moved south to Longlands Road and the western boundary moved east to Cargo Fleet Lane, with the number of councillors reduced from three to two. However, while the Council calculated this ward to have a

variance of 5%, our calculations placed this figure at 11%. We were not persuaded that the evidence provided justified such a variance and have not adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

39 The Council also addressed the existing North Ormesby ward's -15% variance by expanding its eastern boundary along Longlands Road to the borough boundary and maintaining one councillor, thus achieving a variance of -4%. However, while this North Ormesby & Boyds ward has good electoral equality, we have not adopted it as part of our draft recommendations. This is because adopting this ward would be dependent on accepting the Council's proposals for adjoining wards which are not forecast to have good electoral equality.

40 One resident noted that one councillor was not enough for North Ormesby due to high levels of deprivation in the ward. However, the ward is already technically over-represented at present, with a variance of -15%. Adding an extra councillor within the existing ward boundaries would only exacerbate this electoral inequality, resulting in a variance of -58%, which cannot be justified according to our statutory criteria.

41 The Labour submission recognised that the Council's scheme in East Middlesbrough 'provides a perfect set of boundaries in terms of community connections' but noted the variances were 'significant' and therefore made compromises in community representation to achieve better electoral equality. The submission therefore proposed a two-councillor Thorntree & Town Farm ward bounded in the east by the borough boundary, to the south by the existing boundary of Brambles & Thorntree ward, to the west by Middle Beck and to the north by Homerton Road and College Road, achieving a variance of -5%. We are content that this proposal adequately balances the criteria of community identities and good electoral equality and have therefore adopted it in our draft recommendations.

42 Labour's proposed two-councillor North Ormesby, Brambles & Pallister ward includes all of the Council's proposed North Ormesby & Boyds ward with the addition of all properties between Longlands Road, the borough boundary, College Road/Homerton Road and Ormesby Road. As noted in the Labour submission, this ward fully includes the communities of Brambles Farm and North Ormesby with their relevant local amenities; however, we calculate this ward would have an electoral variance of 12%.

43 To mitigate this we have adjusted the boundary between Labour's proposed North Ormesby, Brambles & Pallister and Berwick Hills & Pallister wards. We propose that, instead of the boundary continuing down King's Road, it follow Cranmore Road and a short stretch of Cargo Fleet Lane before joining up with Middle Beck, resulting in forecast electoral variances of -4% for North Ormesby & Brambles ward and -10% for Berwick Hills & Pallister. We investigated using the existing boundary along Longlands Road and Cargo Fleet Lane but this resulted in a

-12% electoral variance for North Ormesby & Brambles ward.

44 These draft proposals place Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Epworth Green, Elvington Green and Edridge Green within North Ormesby & Brambles ward. We would be particularly interested to receive responses on whether this is the correct placement of these addresses. As the majority of Pallister is in Berwick Hills & Pallister ward in our draft recommendations, we have truncated Labour's proposed ward name to North Ormesby & Brambles.

45 One resident wrote to suggest that Cargo Fleet Lane ought to be used as a boundary for Brambles & Thorntree ward, as in the Council's proposal, but also that the ward should include Netherfields, which is presently within the Park End & Beckfield ward. However, given the Council's proposed ward already has a variance of 11%, this would create significant electoral inequality in the ward. We have therefore not adopted this suggestion in our draft recommendations.

Berwick Hills & Pallister and Park End & Beckfield

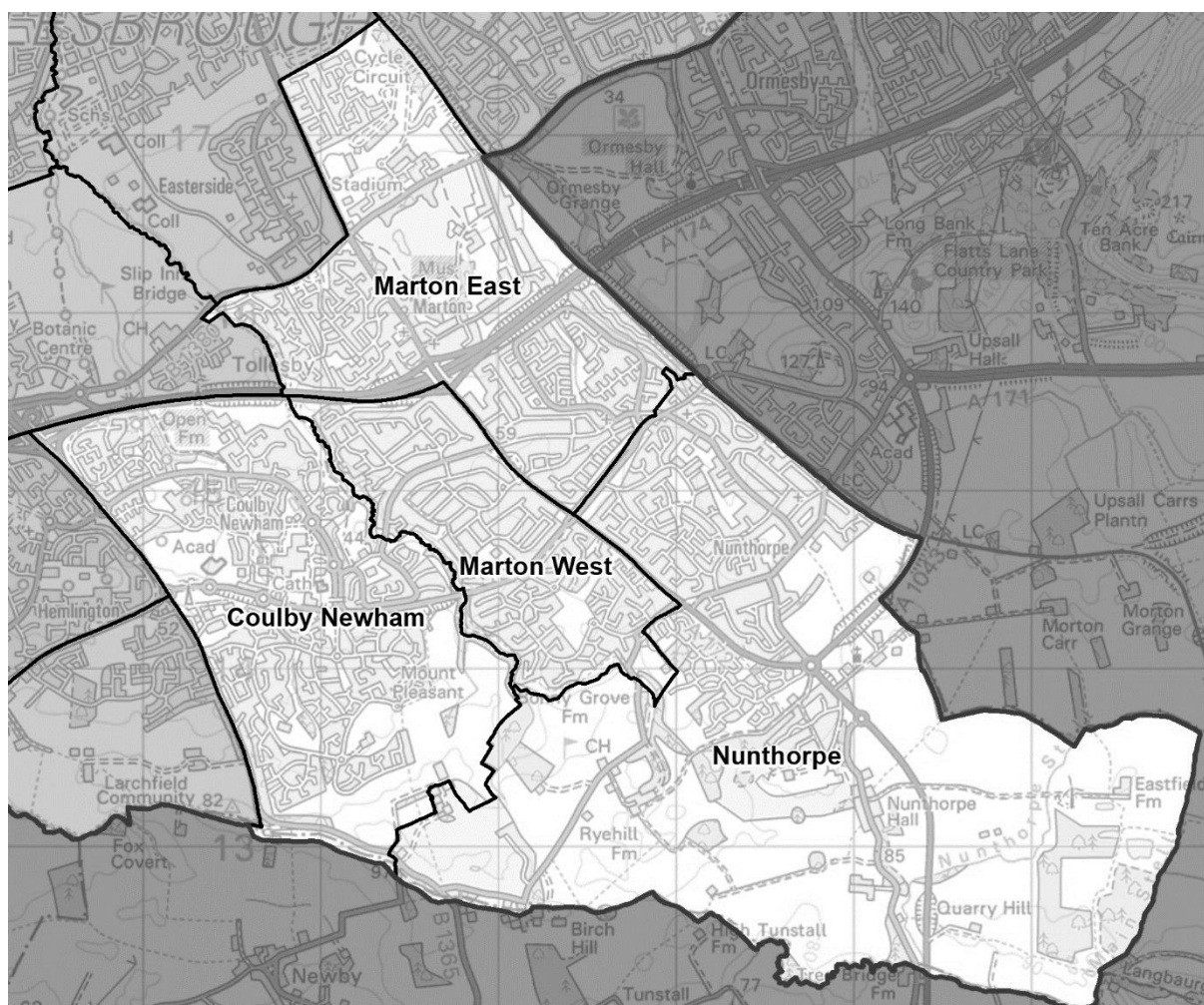
46 The Council's three proposed two-councillor wards contain significant electoral inequality in this area. The proposed Berwick Hills & Park End, bounded by Longlands Road to the north, Ormesby Road to the east, the borough boundary to the south and the railway line to the west, has a forecast variance of 34%. The proposed Netherfields & Priestfields ward, which is similar to the existing Park End & Beckfield ward but with its western boundary running along Ormesby Road, has a forecast variance of -28%, while the proposed Pallister ward, bounded to the north by Longlands Road, to the east by Cargo Fleet Lane, to the south by the boundary with Netherfields & Priestfields, and to the west by Ormesby Road, has a variance of -39%. We have not, therefore, adopted these proposals in our draft recommendations.

47 Labour instead proposed a three-councillor Park End & Beckfield ward similar to the existing ward but with the northern boundary extended along Middle Beck, River Tees Primary Academy, the back of Eston View and along Langridge Crescent to the railway line. This ward has a forecast electoral variance of -2%. Labour considered the southernmost boundary of Berwick Hills to be 'flexible' and noted that there is no agreement among residents about whether they live in Berwick Hills or Park End, thus supporting the area's inclusion in the ward. We are therefore satisfied that these proposals adequately balance our statutory criteria and have adopted them in our draft recommendations.

48 Labour's proposed two-councillor Berwick Hills & Pallister ward is a significantly truncated version of the existing three-councillor ward, with the southern boundary moved north and the eastern boundary amended to follow Ormesby Road and Homerton Road, as described in paragraph 42. However, while making use of clear boundaries on the ground, this results in a -26% variance for the ward. Nevertheless, our adjustments to the proposed North Ormesby & Brambles ward (see paragraph

43) result in a -10% variance for Berwick Hills & Pallister, which we have carried into our draft recommendations.

South-East Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Coulby Newham	3	-6%
Marton East	3	4%
Marton West	2	-8%
Nunthorpe	2	10%

Marton East, Marton West and Nunthorpe

49 The Council and Labour proposals were very similar in South-East Middlesbrough, with differences only in the boundaries of Coulby Newham and Marton East.

50 The Council's proposals for Marton East, Marton West and Nunthorpe closely follow the existing boundaries for these three wards, with minor variations. A significant addition to Nunthorpe ward is Borrowby Rise and Plantation View which would be transferred from Marton West ward. It was suggested that these areas form an integral part of Grey Towers Village and are only accessible from within the proposed Nunthorpe ward. This increases the variance of the ward from 6% to 9%.

We received 11 submissions from residents supporting the area's incorporation into Nunthorpe ward and we are content to include this proposal in our draft recommendations. We have only deviated from this proposal by our transfer of Middlesbrough Golf Club, Brass Castle Lane, De Brus Park and Newham Hall Farm from Marton West ward, as we considered that the rural nature of the area may more closely align with that of Nunthorpe. However, this brings the electoral variance of Nunthorpe up to 10% and we recognise that access from the ward is mostly via farm tracks, so we would be particularly interested to hear residents' views on this proposal.

51 The Council scheme also made only a minor variation to the boundaries of Marton East ward, removing The Wickets and Memorial Drive and placing these in Marton West ward. This change maintains the projected variance of 10% for the existing Marton East ward. Although not explicitly mentioned, it is implied in the Labour submission that Roseberry Park Hospital and The James Cook University Hospital, as well as the residencies off Belle Vue Grove and Marton Road, be included in Marton East ward. This is because, while not addressing Marton East ward directly, the area is not included in any of the surrounding wards described in the submission. This increases the variance of the ward to 13%.

52 Both the Council and Labour schemes broadly follow the existing arrangements for Marton West ward. In addition to the minor variations described above, both have also added Marton Manor to the ward from the existing Ladgate ward. The Council described residents of Marton Manor as identifying with Marton and using amenities in both Marton West and Marton East wards. This was supported by four residents and Ladgate councillor Luke Hurst who argued that Marton Manor should be included in a Marton ward, with one resident and Councillor Hurst explicitly suggesting Marton West. Most cited significant differences between Marton Manor and Easterside, with which the area is presently warded, including high levels of deprivation in Easterside and the differing needs between the two communities. This proposal produces a 2% electoral variance in a three-councillor ward.

53 However, we received six objections to Marton Manor's inclusion in Marton West, from Marton West Community Council, Marton West Councillor Ian Morrish and three residents. They cited a lack of commonality between the two communities, the presence of the A174 dual carriageway as a dividing line between them, and the functioning of Marton West Community Council, the latter of which is not a valid consideration in our warding process. However, in an effort to address the evidence received for the area, we have modified the Council and Labour proposals to switch the number of councillors between the wards. Therefore, Marton West will be a two-councillor ward and Marton East a three-councillor ward, with Marton Manor included in Marton East ward, with Marton West Beck forming the western boundary. This results in variances of -8% for Marton West and 4% for Marton East. We would be particularly interested to receive residents' views on this proposal and whether the names 'Marton West' and 'Marton East' are still relevant.

Coulby Newham

54 While the Labour scheme maintains the existing three-councillor Coulby Newham ward, with a variance of -6%, the Council scheme has instead divided the existing ward between a two-councillor Coulby Newham North ward and a two-councillor Coulby Newham South ward with the addition of part of Stainton & Thornton ward as far as Stainton Beck. However, neither of these wards would have good electoral equality, with the latter at 11% and the former at -33%. We have not, therefore, adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

55 The Labour submission notes that the existing Coulby Newham ward has good electoral equality and reflects its community well, adding it would be inappropriate to change this. We are minded to agree with this assessment and have therefore not proposed any changes to the existing Coulby Newham ward in our draft recommendations. A resident wrote to mention that there are plans to build over 1,000 new homes in the south of the ward and that this would therefore necessitate splitting the ward in two. However, we are not of the view that the existing ward needs to be split as the development referred to is not expected to progress beyond 104 additional electors by 2029, resulting in an acceptable -6% electoral variance.

South-West Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Brookfield & Trimdon	2	-1%
Hemlington	2	9%
Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm	2	9%

Brookfield & Trimdon, Hemlington and Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm

56 Both the Council and Labour schemes in this area have been primarily determined by the high electoral inequality in the existing Stainton & Thornton ward which, being represented by only one councillor, will have a variance of 80% by 2029. This growth is being driven by the large amount of development in the Hemlington Grange Way area to the east of the ward. There is also a considerable amount of development taking place in the existing Trimdon ward, which is expected to add 392 electors by 2029 and bring the electoral variance in that ward to 12%.

57 As discussed above, the Council has sought to deal with this growth in Stainton & Thornton ward by dividing it along Stainton Beck into a single-councillor Stainton & Thornton ward to the west with a variance of 4% and a two-councillor Coulby Newham South ward to the east with a variance of 11%. The Council scheme makes no changes to the existing Hemlington and Trimdon wards, resulting in variances of -5% and 12%, respectively, by 2029. These relatively high electoral variances alone, plus the -33% variance in Coulby Newham North discussed above, is reason enough for us not to adopt these proposals in our draft recommendations. However, we also received submissions from a number of residents and from Councillor Alan Liddle of Stainton & Thornton Parish Council which provided community evidence against the proposals.

58 The submission from Stainton & Thornton Parish Council cited consultation with residents of the parish who wished to remain within a ward containing the whole of Stainton & Thornton parish. This was supported by five submissions from residents citing strong community links between Hemlington Grange Way and Thornton, including shared use of amenities such as coffee mornings at the Stainton Inn, the Post Office, shops and green space. The Parish Council proposed resolving the poor electoral equality in the ward by increasing the number of councillors to two and moving the area of Hemlington east of Stainton Way into Hemlington ward. This would result in a 9% variance for Hemlington but -25% for Stainton & Thornton, a variance that could be lowered to -10% by maintaining the area east of Stainton Way in Stainton & Thornton ward.

59 However, further community evidence from residents persuaded us not to adopt this amended proposal. For example, one resident pointed out that the existing Trimdon ward was composed of two separate communities – a largely 1960s and 1970s estate in Thornhill and the more recent Stainsby Hall development, along Jack Simon Way. The resident noted these communities were not linked by road and did not use the same amenities and that, furthermore, the area of the existing Kader ward west of Bell Beck (Brookfield) is very closely linked with Thornhill. The latter statement was supported by a submission from Trimdon Ward Community Council and the Brookfield area has been included in a two-councillor Brookfield & Trimdon ward by Labour with a variance of 4%.

60 One resident of Stainsby Hall Farm also wrote to say that they considered themselves to associate more with Stainton & Thornton than Trimdon, while another said they had never had any affiliation with Trimdon and should be part of Stainton & Thornton ward. This was reflected in the Labour proposals for a two-councillor Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm ward which comprises the existing Stainton & Thornton ward with the addition of the southern section of Trimdon ward – Brookfield Avenue and Jack Simon Way with its branch streets. However, this proposed ward has an electoral variance of 18% and also excludes most of the additional 392 electors expected to be added to the Stainsby Hall Farm development by 2029. These are instead included in a two-councillor Brookfield & Trimdon ward, to which is

also added that part of the existing Kader ward to the east of Blue Bell Beck. This proposed ward will have a variance of 4% by 2029.

61 In considering this evidence we have decided to adopt a modified version of the Labour proposals in our draft recommendations. This is essentially Labour's proposed Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm ward with the exclusion of the Hemlington area east of Stainton Way, which is added to Hemlington ward, and Brookfield Avenue, which is added to Brookfield & Trimdon ward. We also propose that the ward contain the planned Stainsby Hall Farm estate up to Mandale Road, where Jack Simon Way will eventually join. This results in a forecast variance of 9% for Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm, -1% for Brookfield & Trimdon and 9% for Hemlington. While we are mindful that Stainsby Hall Farm will continue to add a considerable number of new electors to Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm beyond 2029, we believe that this warding arrangement offers the best balance of our three statutory criteria.

South-Central Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Acklam East & Tollesby	2	-3%
Acklam West & Whinney Banks	2	-2%
Beechwood & Easterside	2	9%
Kader	2	-6%

Beechwood & Easterside

62 The Council proposed a one-councillor Easterside ward made up of the remainder of the existing Ladgate ward minus Marton Manor, a pattern which was also proposed by Ladgate councillor Luke Hurst. While the Council's submission made the case that Easterside is a very much self-contained community with residents rarely using amenities outside of the estate, this nonetheless results in a ward with poor electoral equality, having 13% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2029. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

63 Labour, by contrast, proposed a two-councillor Beechwood & Easterside ward comprising Easterside and that part of the Beechwood estate south of Keith Road

and Belle Vue Grove, which is currently in Longlands & Beechwood ward. The Labour submission notes the Beechwood, Easterside & District Social Club straddles the two estates and offers a focal point for the community in the ward. This proposed ward, which uses Marton West Beck at its western boundary and therefore excludes Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre, would have good electoral quality by 2029, with an electoral variance of 6%.

64 We have adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations with a minor addition, namely that of Roseberry Park Hospital, The James Cook University Hospital and the properties on Belle Vue Grove and Marton Road. While this area was included in Labour's proposed Marton West ward (see paragraph 51), we note that its residents are significantly removed from the rest of the proposed ward, and are presently included in Longlands & Beechwood ward with residents on the other side of Marton Road. We have therefore chosen to keep these residents together in the same ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Acklam East & Tollesby, Acklam West & Whinney Banks and Kader

65 The Council's scheme made no changes to the existing Kader ward, while the Labour scheme removed the Brookfield area west of Blue Bell Beck and added Asterley Drive, Chalford Oaks, Farley Drive, Heythrop Drive, the south side of Mandale Road and Minsterley Drive ('the Heythrop Drive area'). Both proposals result in variances of -2%. However, owing to our adoption of the Labour proposals in the surrounding wards, we have based our draft recommendations on the Labour scheme here also.

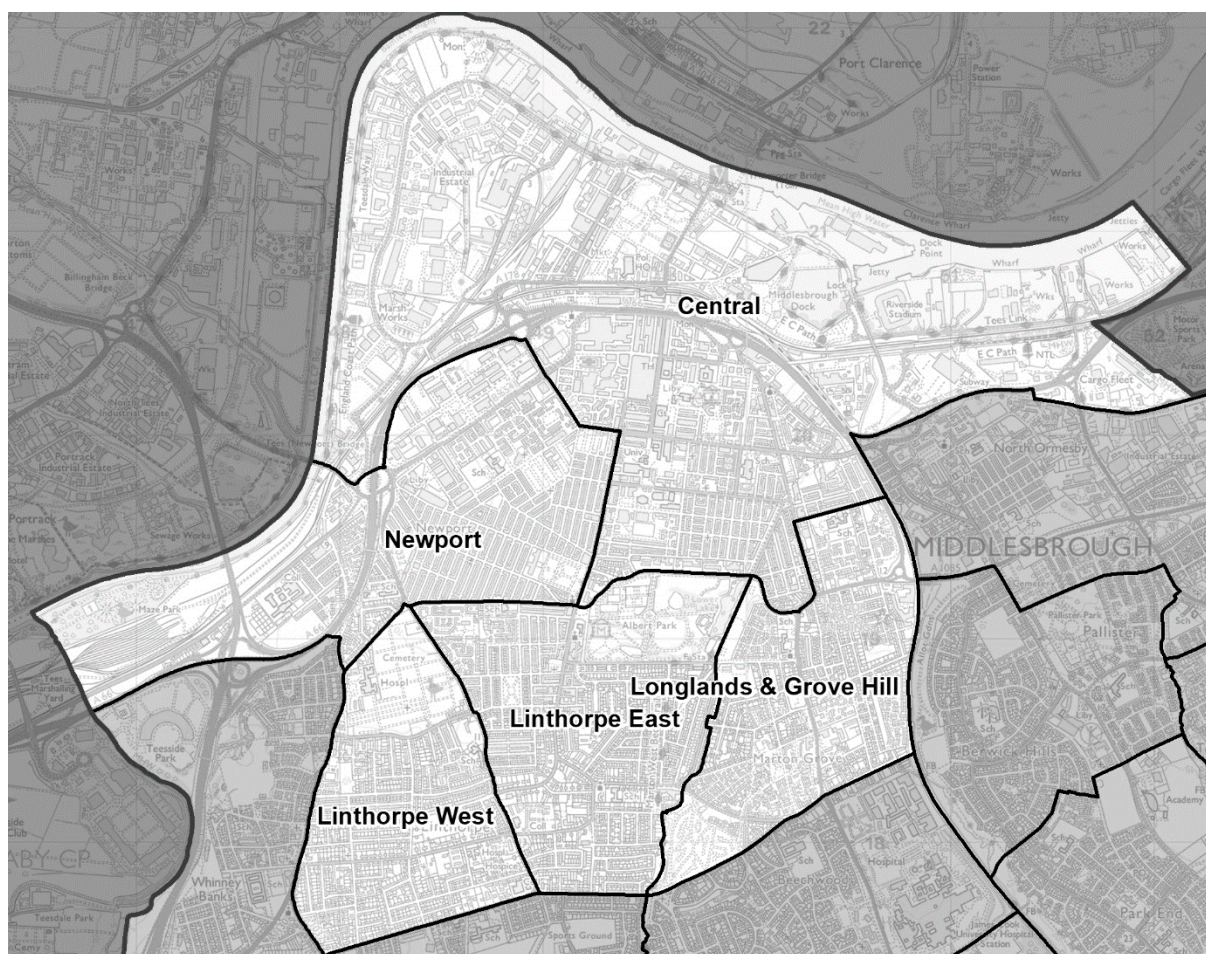
66 As mentioned above, the Council included Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Course in its proposed Easterside ward, while Labour has instead included the area in its proposed Acklam East & Tollesby ward. However, as the golf course is accessed from the south on Ladgate Lane, we considered that effective and convenient local government would be better served by including it in Kader ward, together with the streets to the south of Ladgate Lane. This would result in the use of Marton West Beck as the western boundary of the ward. However, we would be particularly interested to hear evidence from residents of this area on the issue of which community they feel they belong to.

67 We also noted that Kader Football Club was included in Acklam East & Tollesby ward in both the Council and Labour schemes and considered it may better serve community representation for the club to be included in Kader ward. By necessity, this also entails the inclusion of Outwood Academy, Adcott Road, Bewley Grove, Cowley Road, the south side of Hall Drive and St David's Way in Kader ward, as the club is accessed from Hall Drive. Again, we would be particularly keen to receive evidence from residents of this area and those who use both the club and Outwood Academy as to which ward they ought to belong.

68 As noted above, the Labour scheme included the Heythrop Drive area in Kader ward, with the submission asserting that residents in the area identify more with Kader and Acklam than with Whinney Banks. However, while we would welcome community evidence from local residents about which area they identify with, we have chosen at this time to retain the area in the Acklam West & Whinney Banks ward, which is identical to the existing Ayresome ward, as the area appears to be better connected to Whinney Banks than to Kader. While we have adopted the Council's renaming of Ayresome ward, we would be particularly interested to hear from residents whether they feel better represented by this name or 'Acklam North', as proposed by Councillor Jackie Young and a resident.

69 We believe that our proposed Kader ward offers clear and cohesive boundaries which reflect both community identities and interests, and will provide for effective and convenient local government. We also note that the proposed ward will have good forecast electoral equality with a variance of -6% by 2029. Neither the Council nor Labour proposed any changes to the boundaries of the existing Acklam ward, only to rename it Acklam East & Tollesby. As this appears to reflect the communities in the ward, we have adopted this ward in our draft recommendations.

North-Central Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Central	3	4%
Linthorpe East	3	2%
Linthorpe West	2	-1%
Longlands & Grove Hill	2	4%
Newport	3	-1%

Central and Longlands & Grove Hill

70 The Council and Labour schemes made few changes to the existing wards in this area, most of which would retain good electoral equality by 2029, except Central ward, which would have a variance of 12%. Despite this, the Council proposed retaining the existing Central ward, while Labour has instead added the area between Breckon Hill Road, Marton Road, Longlands Road and the railway line to their proposed Longlands & Grove Hill ward, resulting in a variance of 4% for Central ward. Given the better electoral equality provided for in the Labour scheme we have adopted it as part of our draft recommendations.

71 The aforementioned Longlands & Grove Hill ward proposed by Labour would be represented by two councillors and have a variance of 4%. The ward is made up of the remainder of the existing Longlands & Beechwood ward once the Beechwood estate and the hospitals area had been removed (see paragraphs 63 to 64). Owing to our adoption of these related proposals from the Labour scheme, we have also adopted this proposed ward in our draft recommendations.

Linthorpe East and Linthorpe West

72 The Council proposed retaining the existing Linthorpe and Park wards but renamed them Linthorpe East and Linthorpe West, respectively. While the reasoning behind this was not explained in the Council's submission, one resident wrote to express frustration at the present naming of the wards. The resident's submission read: 'I find it hard to discover which ward I am in given that I live in Linthorpe but apparently I am not in Linthorpe ward. Friends who live further away from the old Linthorpe village are in Linthorpe ward.' It is clear that both wards represent a single community and we agree that the ward names ought to reflect this. We have therefore adopted the proposal in our draft recommendations.

Newport

73 The Council and Labour schemes differed slightly in the boundaries of Newport ward. The Council proposed maintaining the existing boundaries of Newport ward, which is expected to have a variance of -1% by 2029, thus maintaining good electoral equality. The Labour proposals instead followed the A66 as the western boundary of the ward with the Stockton Road/West Road area being included in a proposed Whinney Banks & West Road ward. The Labour submission asserted that the building of the A66 separated the West Road community from Newport in the 1980s. However, we noted that there is still pedestrian access across the roundabout, and that removing the West Road area from Newport ward results in poor electoral equality with a variance of -11%. Therefore, while we would welcome submissions from residents of the West Road area about which ward they wish to belong, we have at this time adopted the Council's proposals for this ward in our draft recommendations.

Conclusions

74 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Middlesbrough, referencing the 2023 and 2029 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	46	46
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,154	2,272
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Middlesbrough Borough Council should be made up of 46 councillors serving 20 wards representing 14 two-councillor wards and six three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Middlesbrough Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Middlesbrough Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

75 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

76 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. We are not making any such changes as part of our draft recommendations. However, Middlesbrough Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

Have your say

77 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

78 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Middlesbrough, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

79 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk

80 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

81 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Middlesbrough)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth NE24 9FE

82 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Middlesbrough Borough Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

83 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

84 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Middlesbrough?

85 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

86 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

87 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

88 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

89 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

90 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Middlesbrough Borough Council in 2027.

Equalities

91 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Middlesbrough Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Acklam East & Tollesby	2	4,377	2,189	2%	4,419	2,209	-3%
2	Acklam West & Whinney Banks	2	4,216	2,108	-2%	4,453	2,226	-2%
3	Beechwood & Easterside	2	4,894	2,447	14%	4,971	2,486	9%
4	Berwick Hills & Pallister	2	4,101	2,051	-5%	4,101	2,051	-10%
5	Brookfield & Trimdon	2	4,510	2,255	5%	4,498	2,249	-1%
6	Central	3	6,501	2,167	1%	7,090	2,363	4%
7	Coulby Newham	3	6,278	2,093	-3%	6,382	2,127	-6%
8	Hemlington	2	4,959	2,480	15%	4,959	2,480	9%
9	Kader	2	3,765	1,883	-13%	4,258	2,129	-6%
10	Linthorpe East	3	6,796	2,265	5%	6,920	2,307	2%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Linthorpe West	2	4,457	2,229	3%	4,476	2,238	-1%
12 Longlands & Grove Hill	2	4,288	2,144	0%	4,726	2,363	4%
13 Marton East	3	6,447	2,149	0%	7,066	2,355	4%
14 Marton West	2	4,109	2,055	-5%	4,189	2,095	-8%
15 Newport	3	6,510	2,170	1%	6,762	2,254	-1%
16 North Ormesby & Brambles	2	4,163	2,082	-3%	4,343	2,172	-4%
17 Nunthorpe	2	4,434	2,217	3%	4,995	2,498	10%
18 Park End & Beckfield	3	6,652	2,217	3%	6,652	2,217	-2%
19 Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm	2	3,753	1,877	-13%	4,938	2,469	9%
20 Thorntree & Town Farm	2	3,865	1,933	-10%	4,299	2,149	-5%

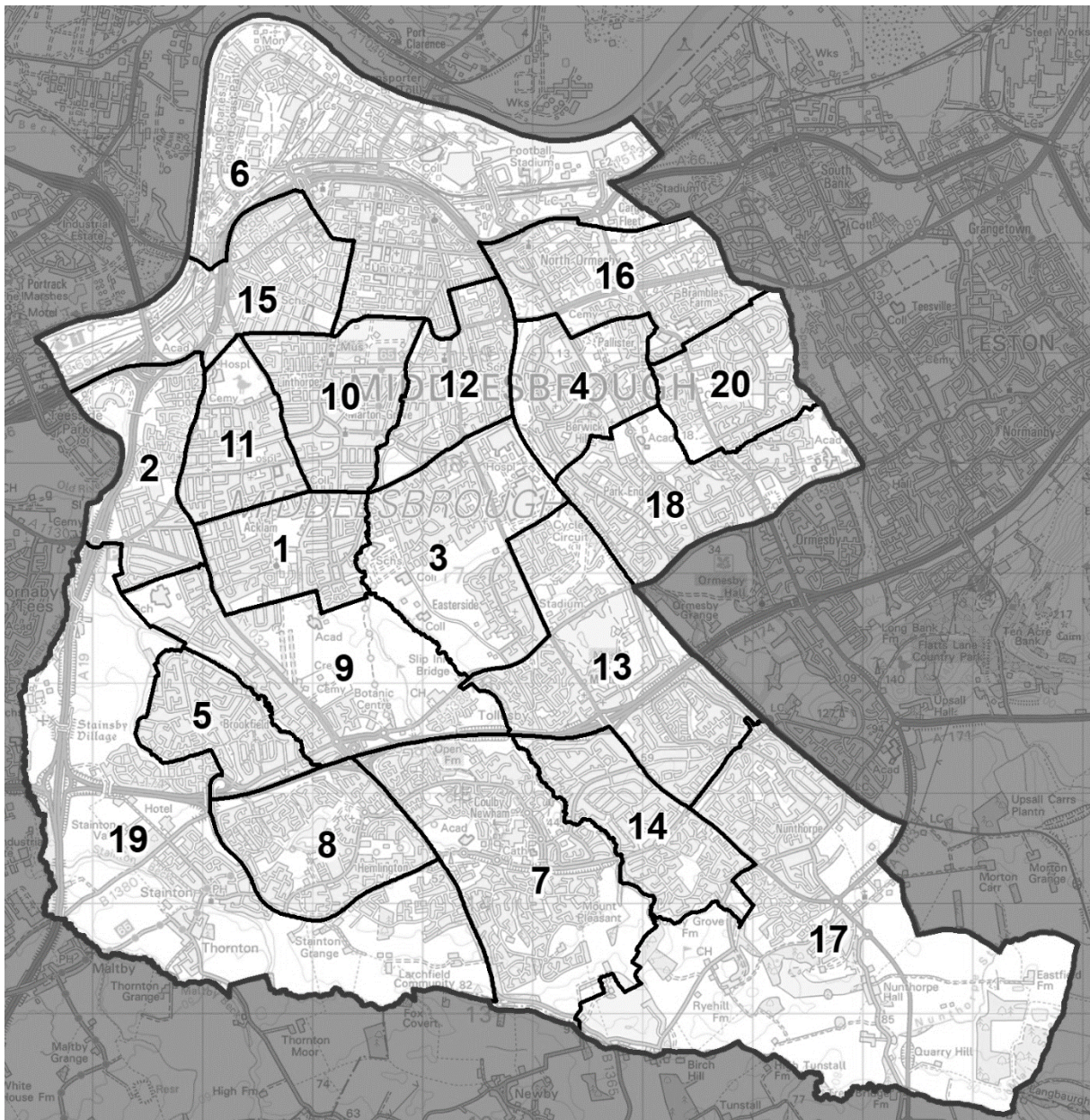
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Averages	–	–	2,154	–	–	2,272	–
Totals	46	99,075	–	–	104,497	–	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Note: The ‘variance from average’ column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Acklam East & Tollesby
2	Acklam West & Whinney Banks
3	Beechwood & Easterside
4	Berwick Hills & Pallister
5	Brookfield & Trimdon
6	Central
7	Coulby Newham
8	Hemlington
9	Kader

10	Linthorpe East
11	Linthorpe West
12	Longlands & Grove Hill
13	Marion East
14	Marion West
15	Newport
16	North Ormesby & Brambles
17	Nunthorpe
18	Park End & Beckfield
19	Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm
20	Thorntree & Town Farm

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/middlesbrough

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/middlesbrough

Local Authority

- Middlesbrough Borough Council

Political Groups

- Middlesbrough Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor L. Hurst (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Liddle (Stainton & Thornton Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Livingstone (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor D. McCabe (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor M. McClintock (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor I. Morrish (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Young (Middlesbrough Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- Marton West Community Council
- Trimdon Ward Community Council

Local Residents

- 52 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific Middlesbrough of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined Middlesbrough of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the Middlesbrough defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular Middlesbrough of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific Middlesbrough of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
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Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter/X: @LGBCE